SHIRITORI

シ・リ・ト・リ

筑濱カズコ
Chikuhama Kazuko

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SHIRITORI IS A JAPANESE WORD-GAME WHICH INVOLVES TAKING (TORI) THE SYLLABLE FROM THE END (SHIRI) OF A WORD, AND THINKING UP A NEW WORD WHICH STARTS WITH THAT SYLLABLE. ONE ENGLISH NAME FOR THIS GAME IS "WORD CHAIN." IF YOU WANT TO TRY IT OUT, YOU CAN EVEN PLAY ONLINE IN ENGLISH AT HTTP://SHIRITORIGAME.COM/

IN THIS MANGA, THE DIALOGUE ITSELF DOESN'T USE SHIRITORI, BUT THE CHAPTER TITLES DO. SO THE FIRST CHAPTER NAMED "STORE" OR "MI SE" IN JAPANESE, LEADS INTO A SECOND CHAPTER NAMED "LAUNDRY," WHICH IS "SE N TA KU" IN JAPANESE.

-ANTISENSE

CHAPTER 7 SEA LION (TODO) 113

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AFTERWORD 130

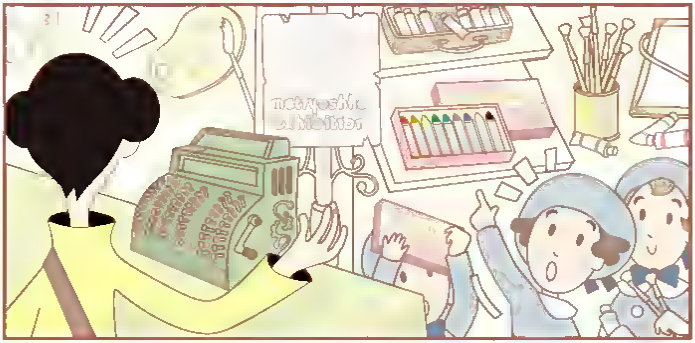
THE STORE

おみせ

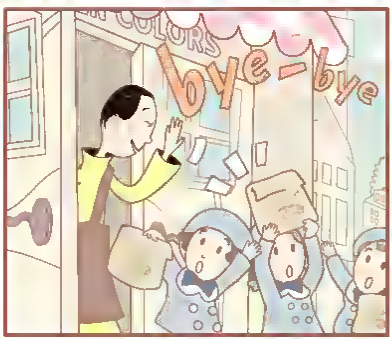
O MI SE

CHAPTER 1

screech!
screech!
screech!
SEVEN COLORS



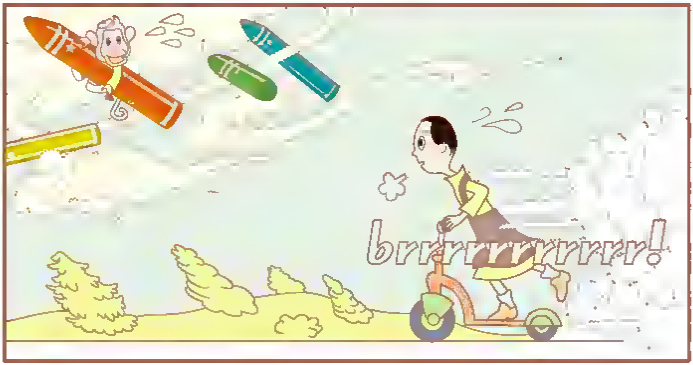
"HERE YOU ARE! THANK YOU FOR ALWAYS VISITING NANA'S* STORE!"



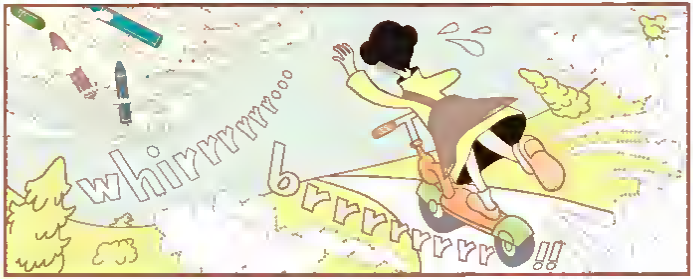
*Nana: "Seven" in Japanese.

?!
Whizzzzzz...
Whiffffff
Whiffffff

screech!
screech!
screech!
whiiiii
pop!
pop!
SEVEN COLORS
...

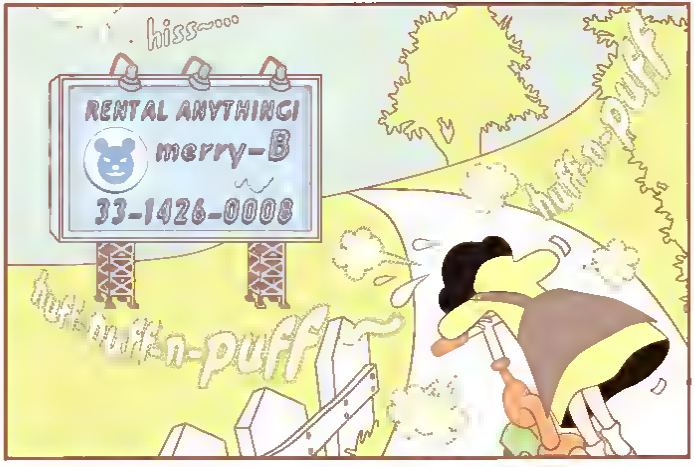


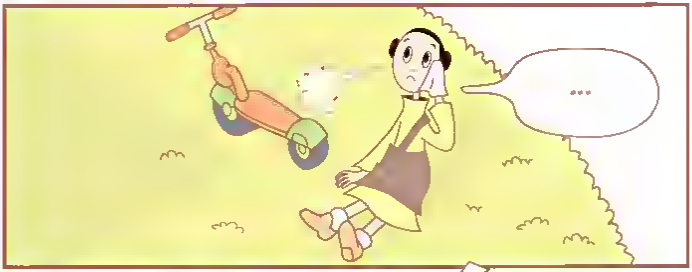
"MONKICHI!"*



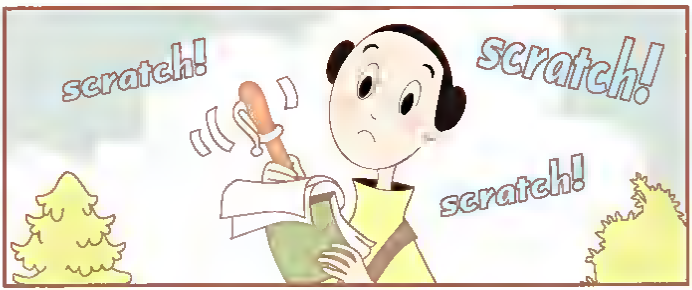
*Monkichi: A generic name for a monkey.

"WAIT! MY CRAYONS!"



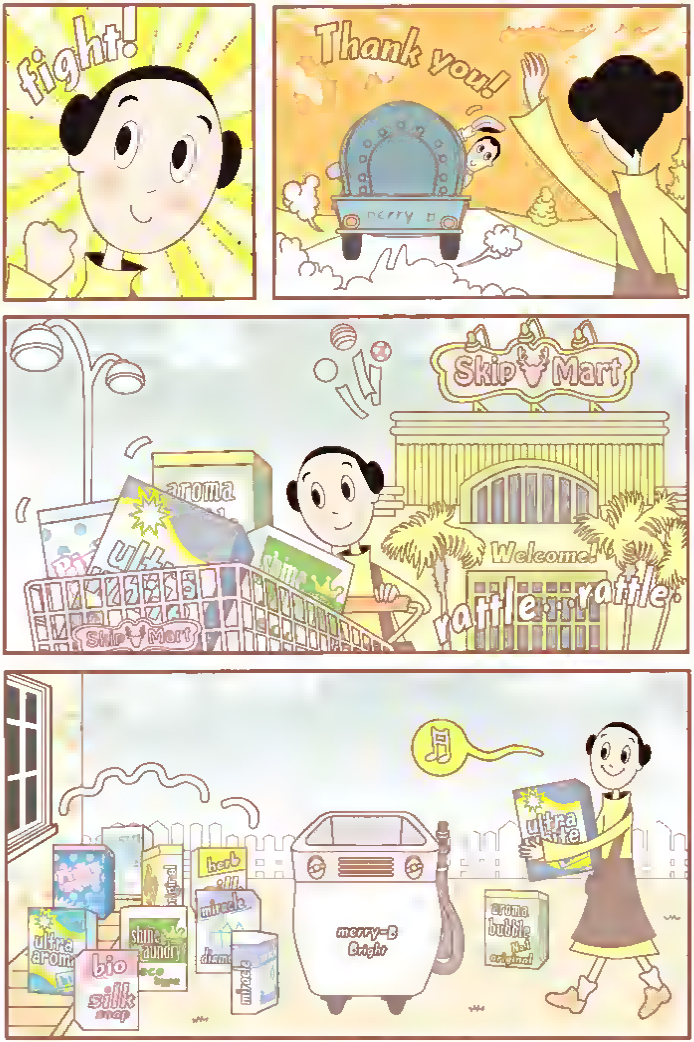


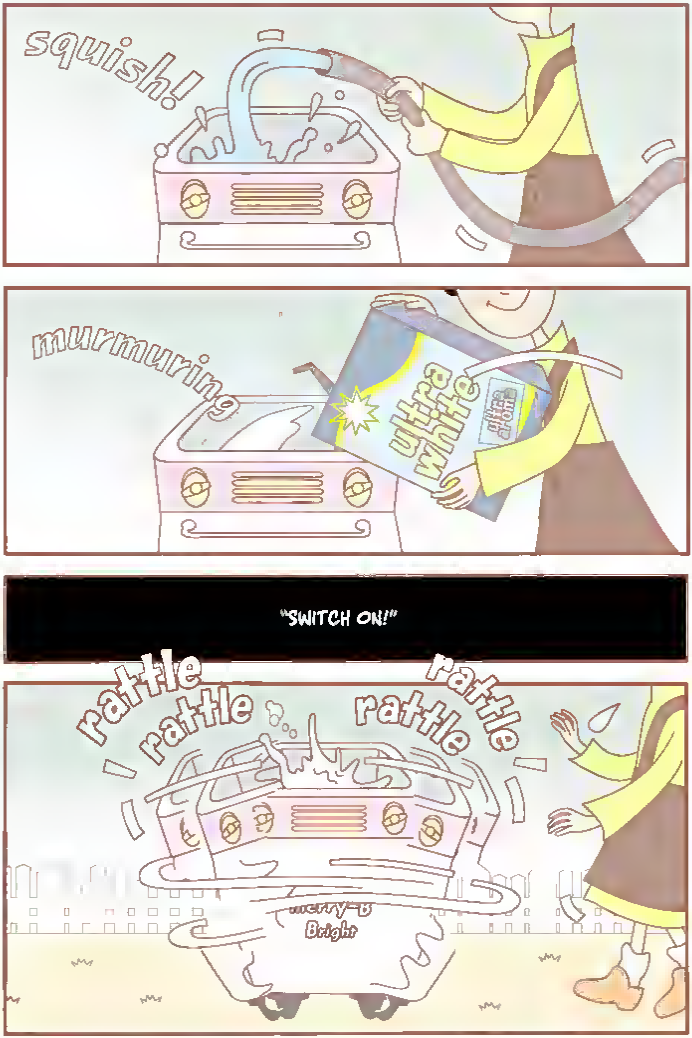
"HMM...? RENT ANYTHING?"



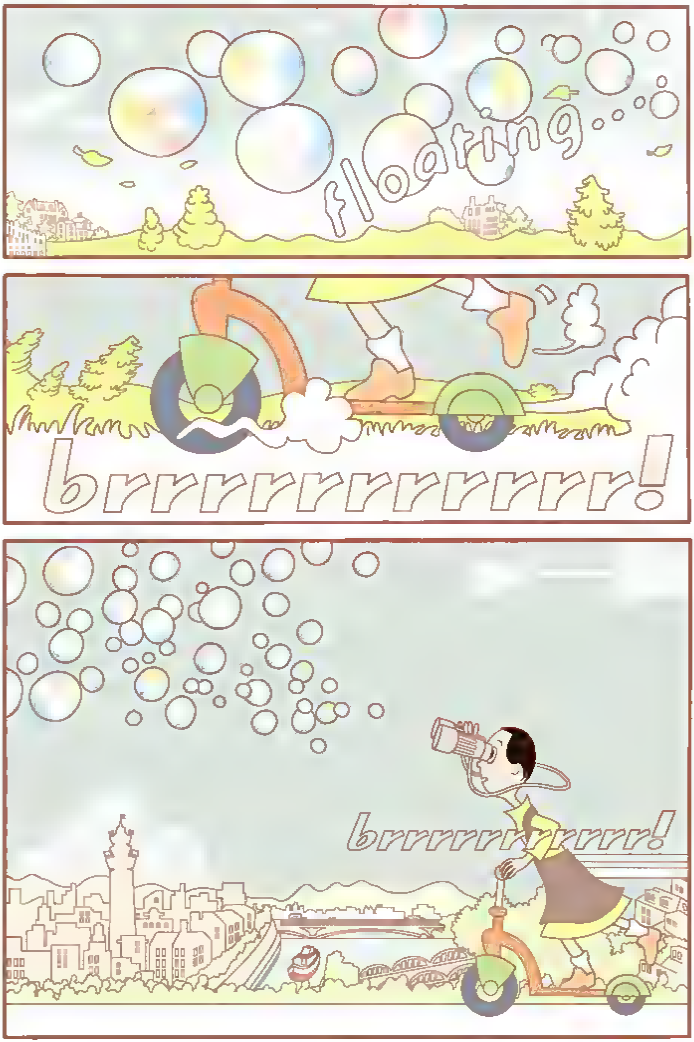
Hello!
SEVEN COLORS
beep!
"UM... HUH? YOU CAN BRING IT OVER RIGHT NOW?"
Squeal!!!!

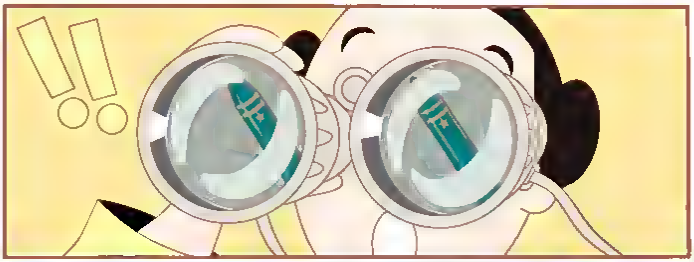
!
merry-B
clank...
merry-B
♪
♩
♪~♪
merry-B
rattle...rattle...rattle


fight!
Thank you!
merry
Skip Mart
Welcome!
rattle... rattle...
aroma
ultra
shine
Skip Mart
merry-E
bright
ultra aroma
bio silk soap
herb silk
miracle
shine laundry
aroma bubble
ultra aroma

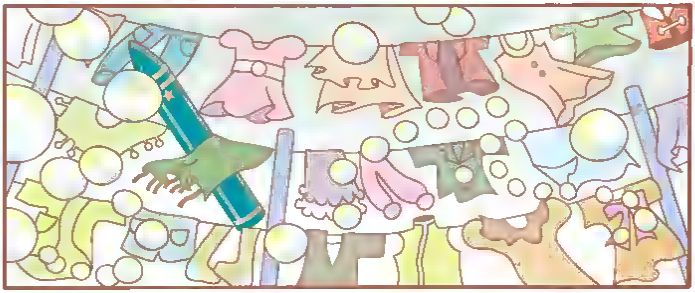

squish!
murmuring
ultra white
"SWITCH ON!"
rattle
rattle
rattle
rattle
Merry-G
Bright

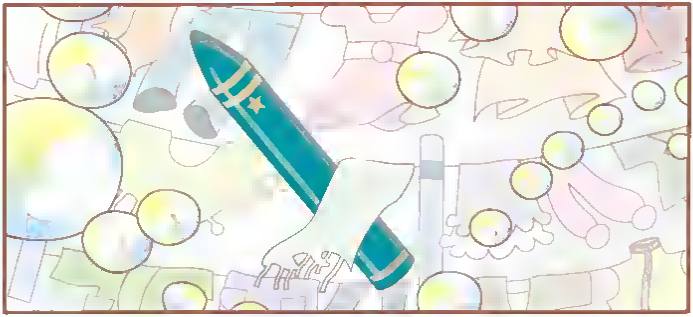
floating
floating...
floating..
floating
floating
merry-B
Bright
original
miracle


floating
brrrrrrrrrrrrrr!
brrrrrrrrrrrr!



"AH! THERE'S A CRAYON!"





"ONE CRAYON CAME BACK."

み せ　MI SE

STORE

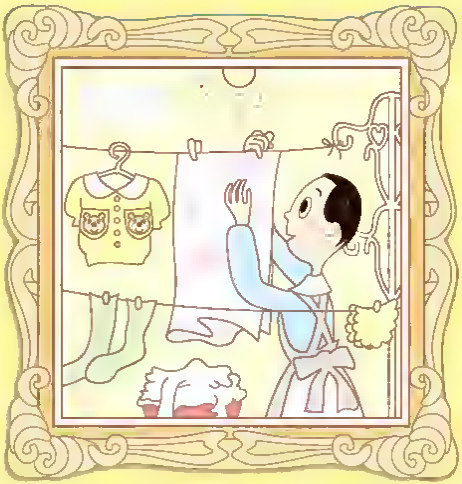
SE N TA KU

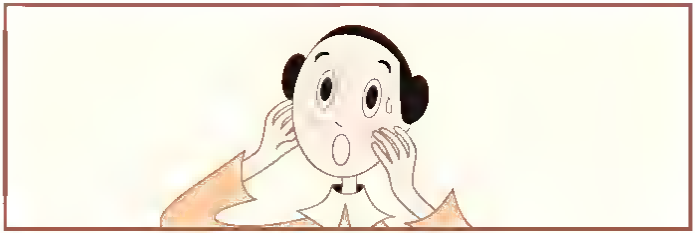
LAUNDRY

せんたく

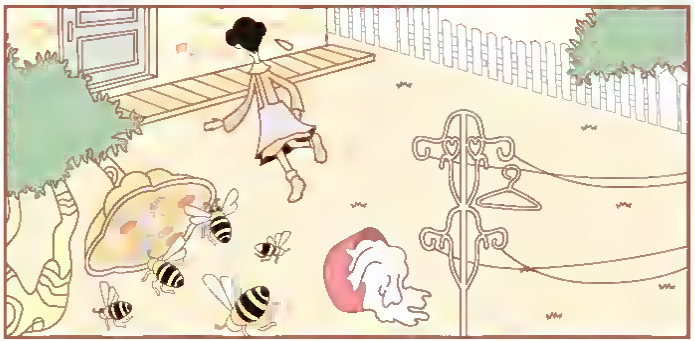
SE N TA KU

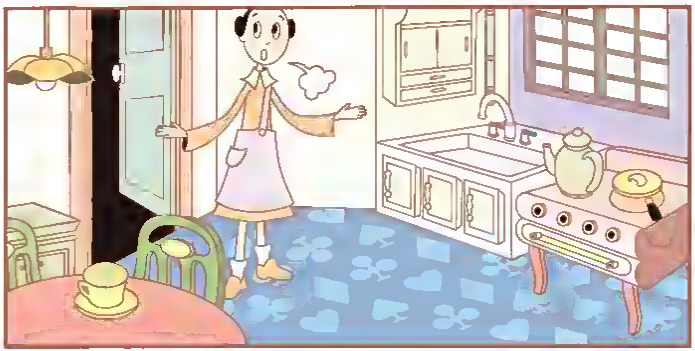
CHAPTER 2



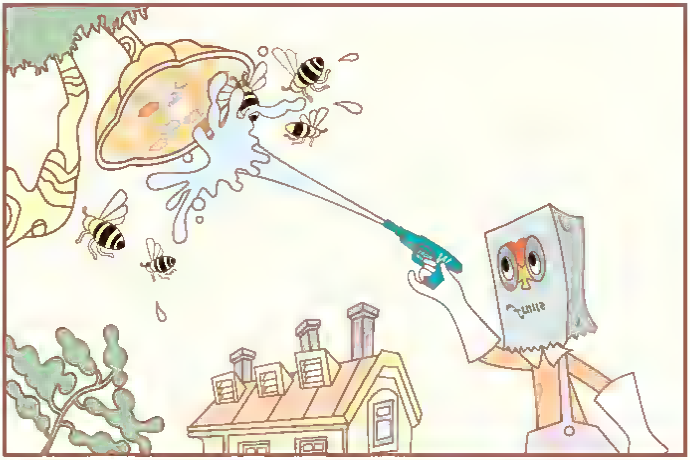


"EEK! BEES!"

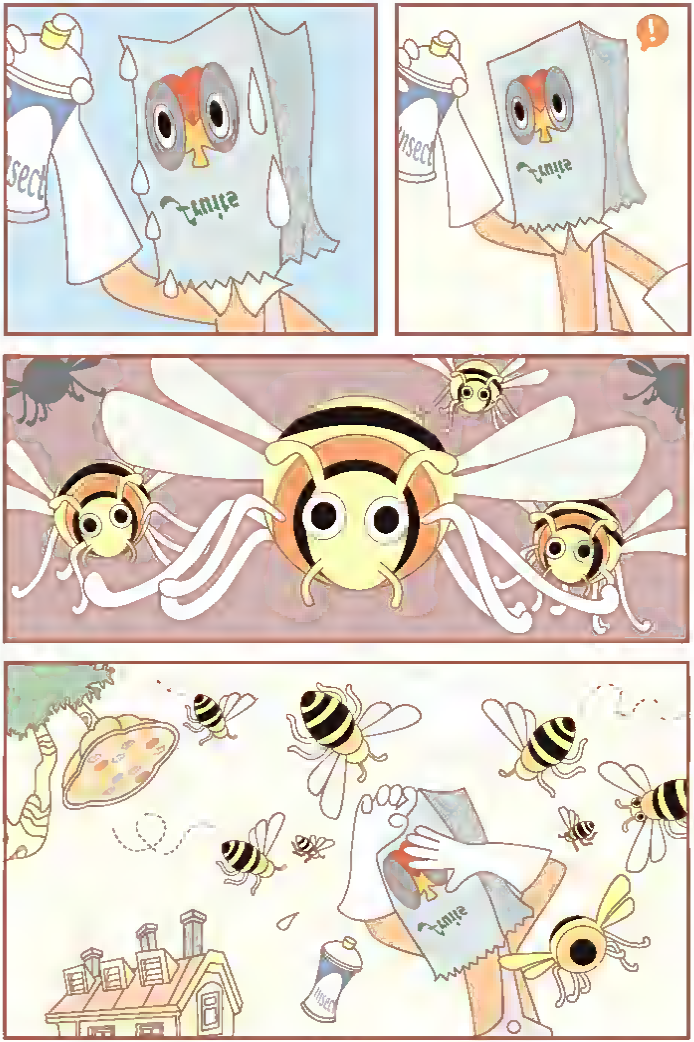


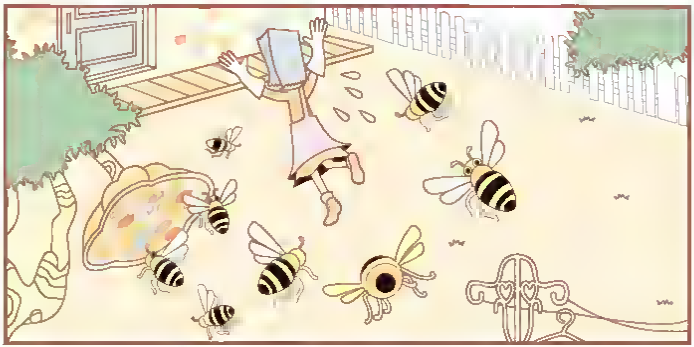


Honey
Fruits
Fruits
Fruits
Fruits

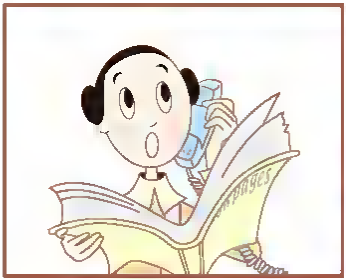


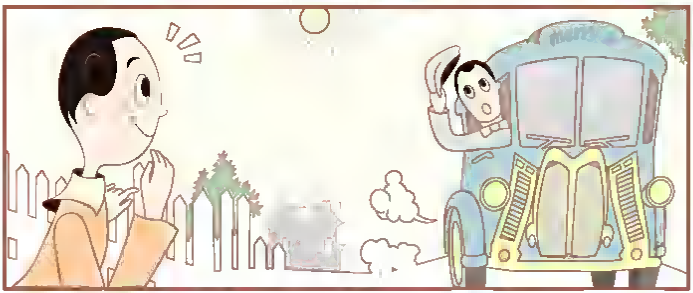
"BAH! STILL THERE, ARE YOU?"


Insecti
Insecti
Insecti
Insecti



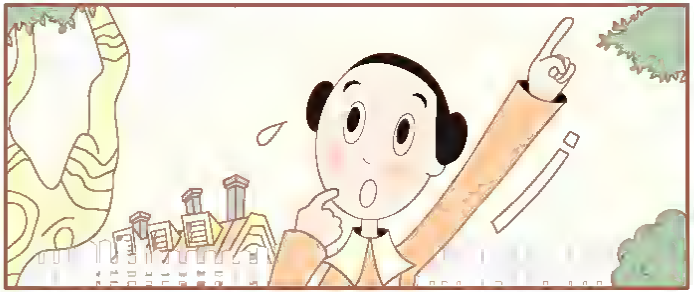
"OOOKAY! IF IT'S COME TO THIS, THEN...!"



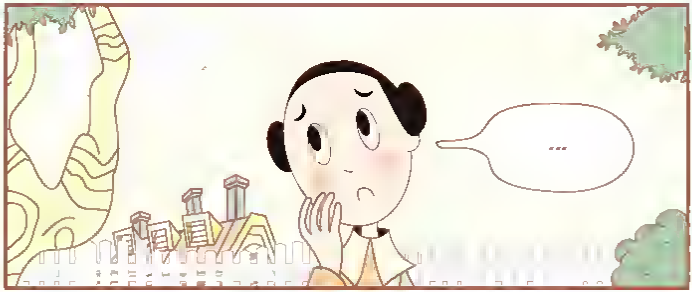


merry B
?

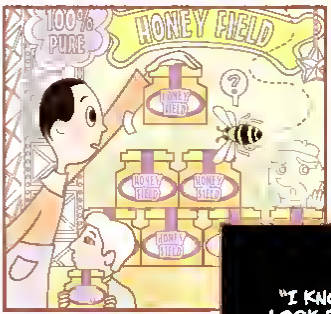
buzzz...
!
"WAAAH! WAAAH! WAAAH!"
? ? ? ?

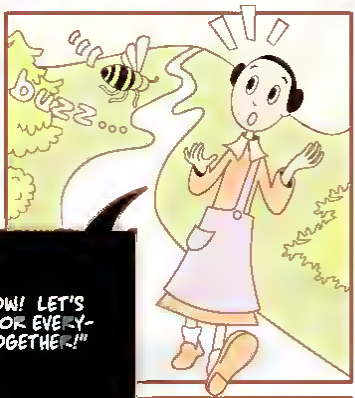


"EVERYONE ELSE LEFT..."

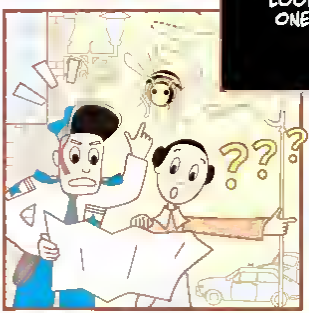


"THAT'S TRUE... IT'S PRETTY LONELY BEING BY YOURSELF, ISN'T IT...?"

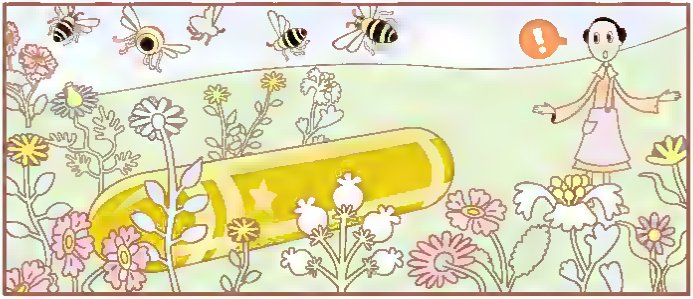




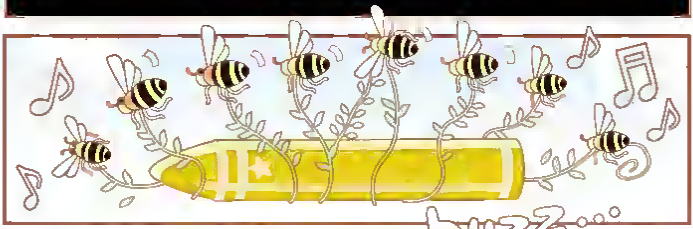
"I KNOW! LET'S LOOK FOR EVERY-ONE TOGETHER!"



buzz...
buzz...
buzz...
!!
buzz...
SON!
MOTHER!
AH!



"HUH? A CRAYON... HERE?!"



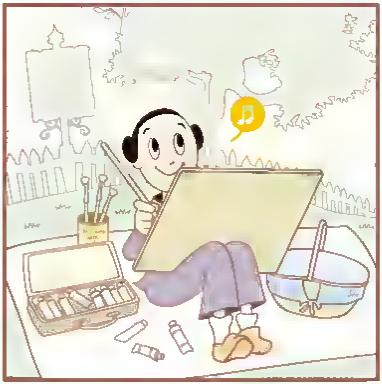
SE N TA KU
KU MA
せんたく
くま
LAUNDRY
BEAR

BEAR

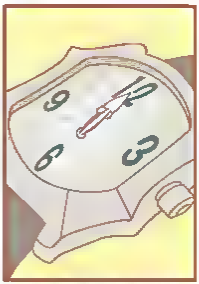
くま

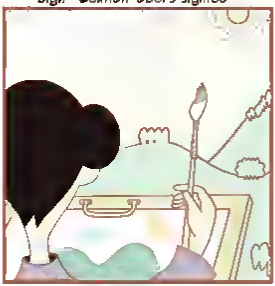
KU MA

CHAPTER 3

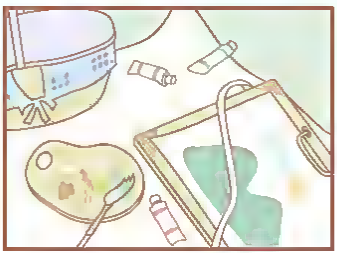


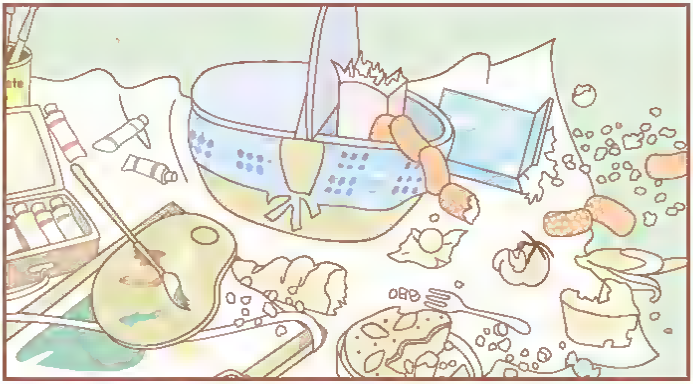
Sign "Caution Bears sighted!"

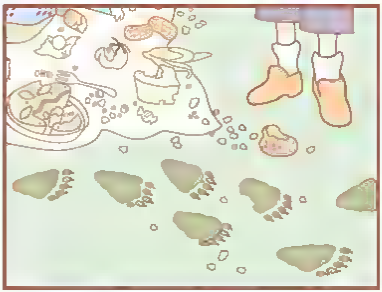




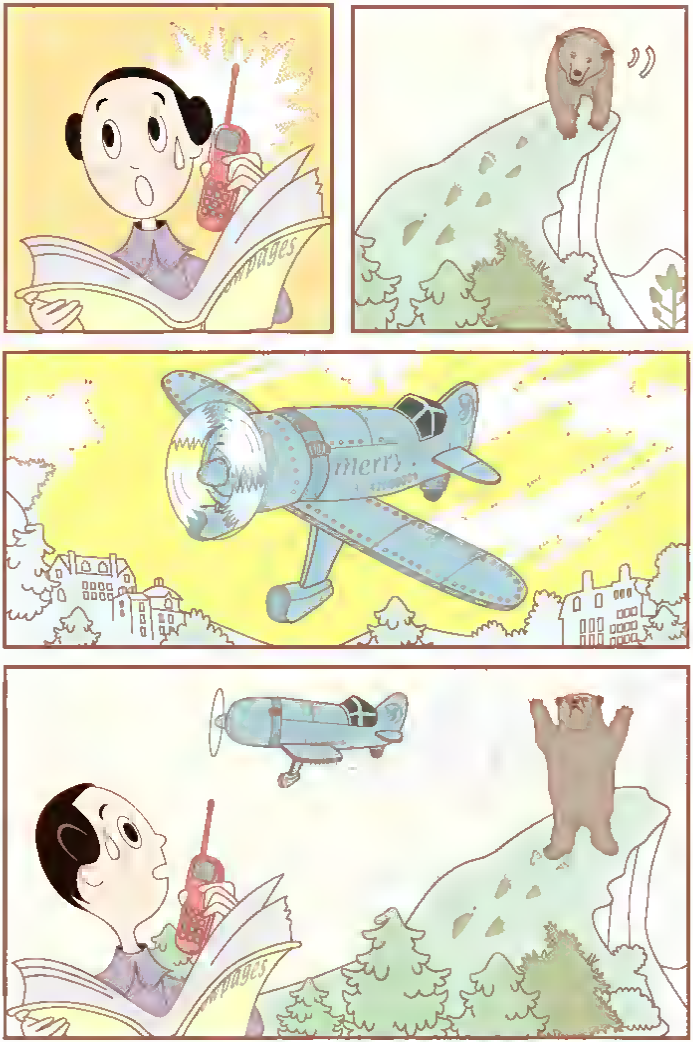
"LUNCH TIME! I'LL TAKE A BREAK!"

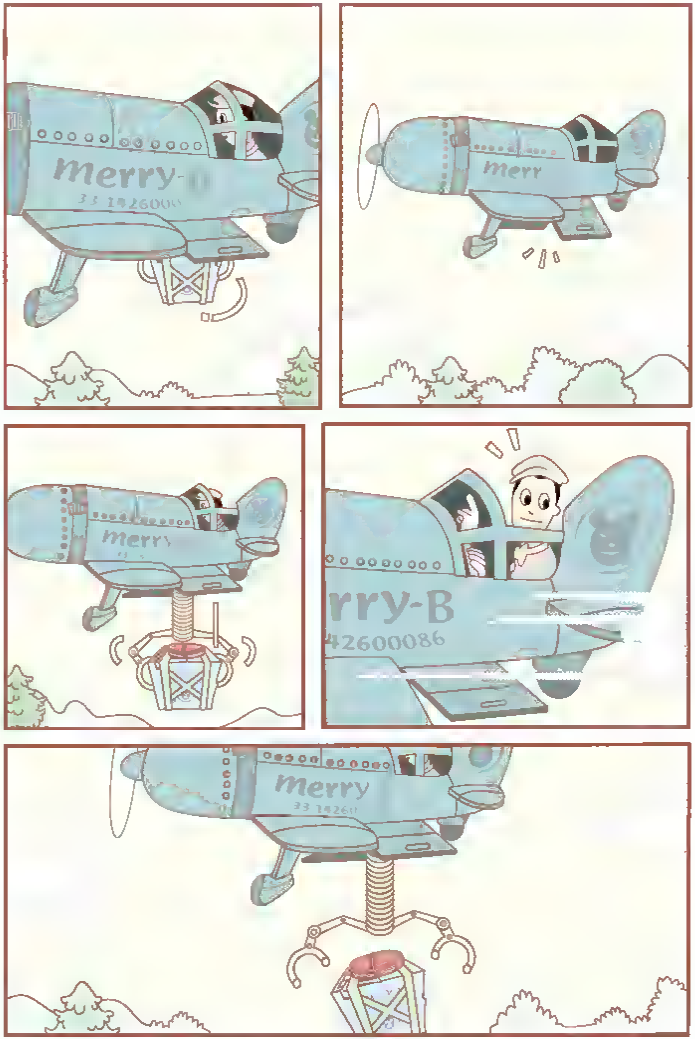


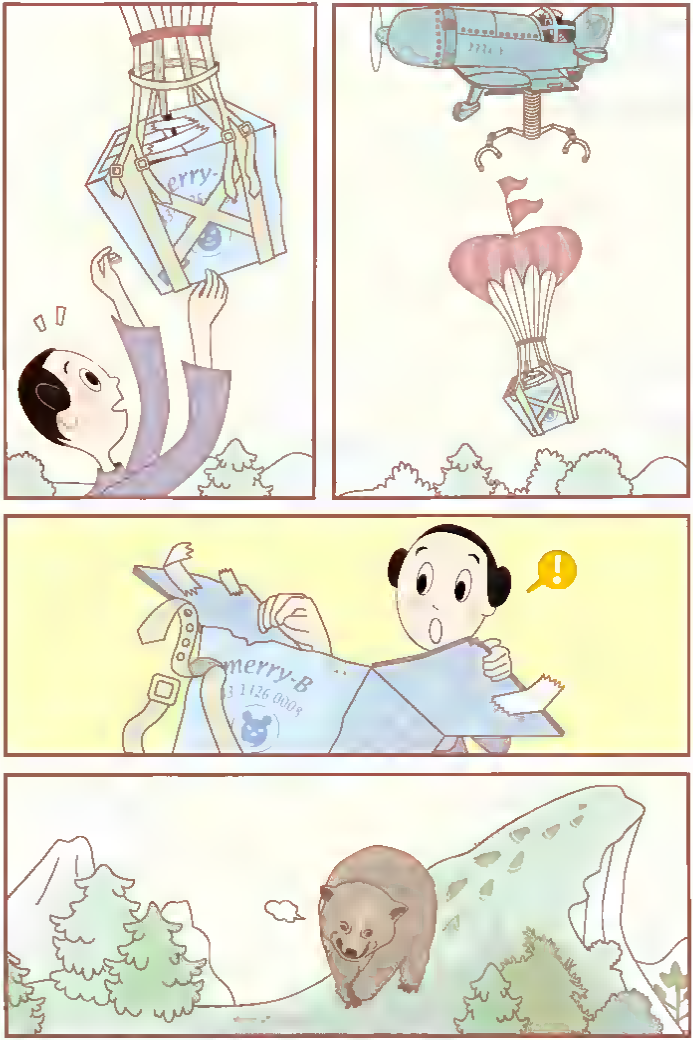




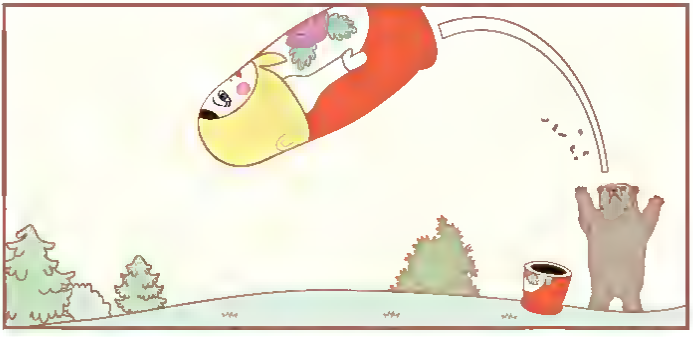
"I... I... I... I'LL GET EATEN!"

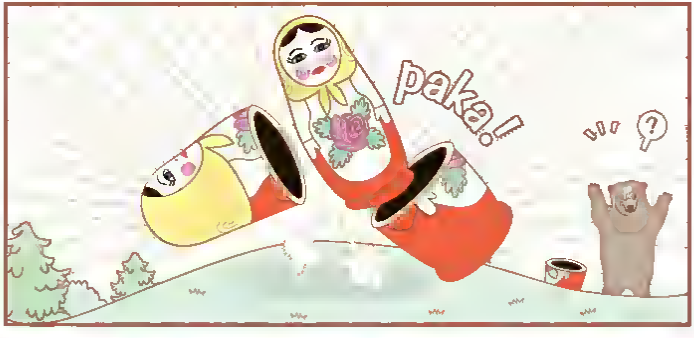

merry

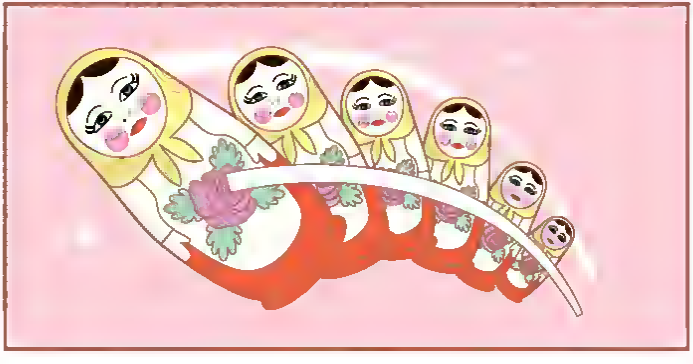

merry-B
merry
merry
rry-B
merry

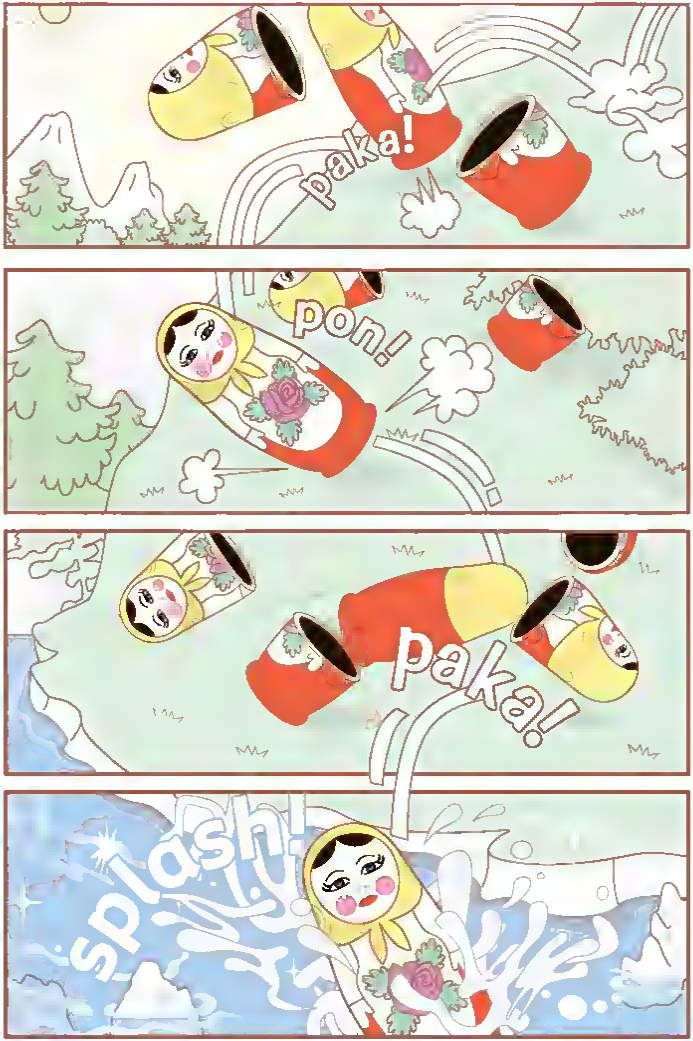

merry-B

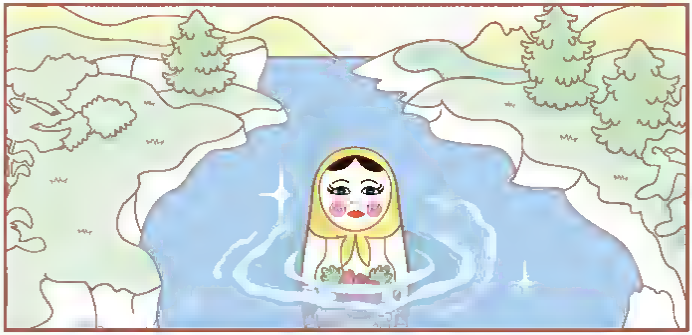
pon!
?

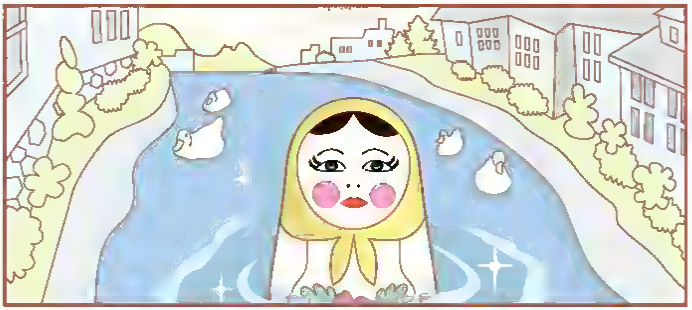


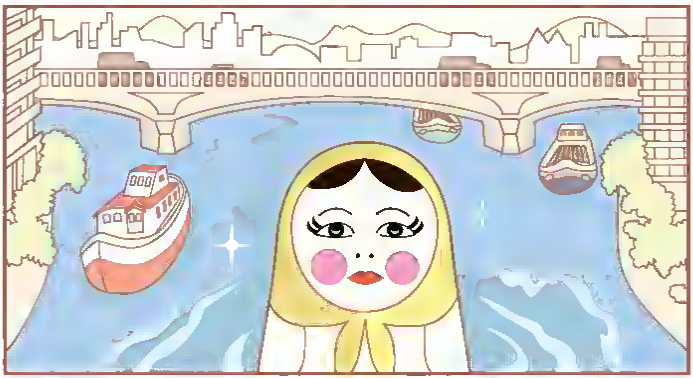

paka!
?



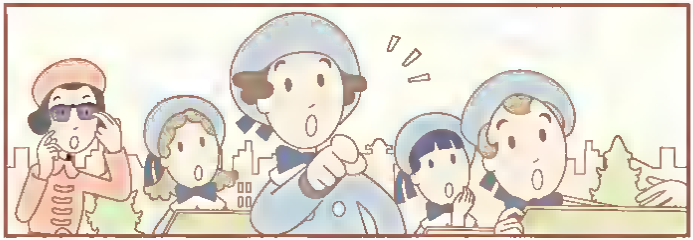

paka!
pon!
paka!
splash!

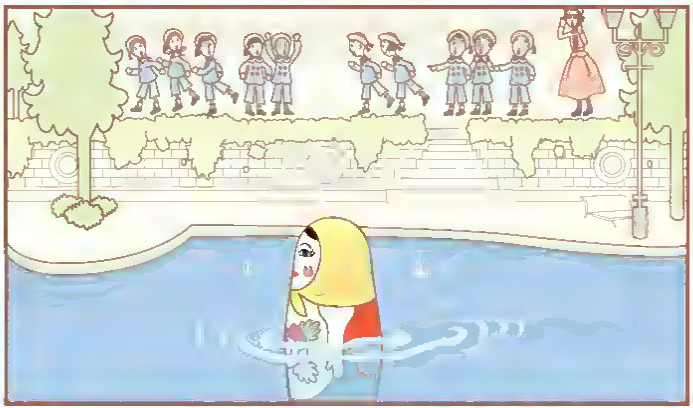


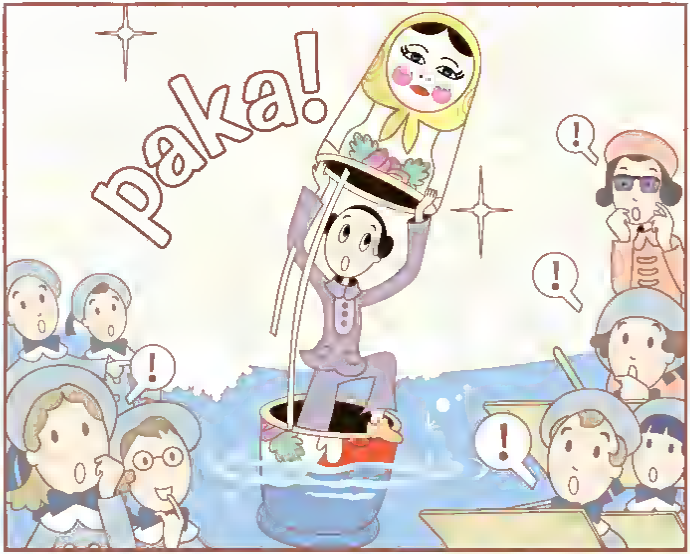


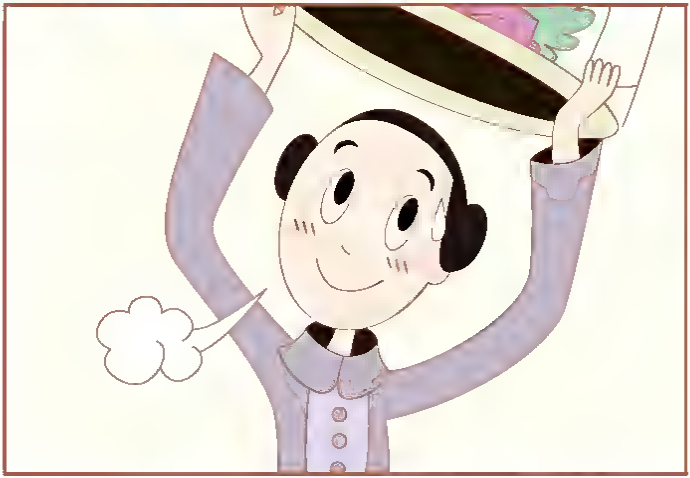


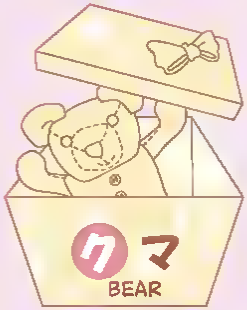
"LOOK! WHAT'S THAT?!"



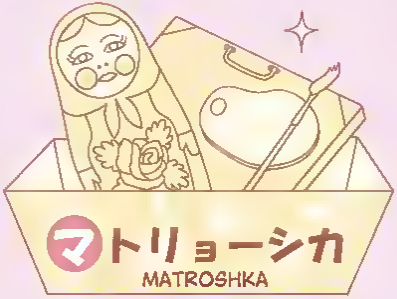



paka!
!
!
!
!

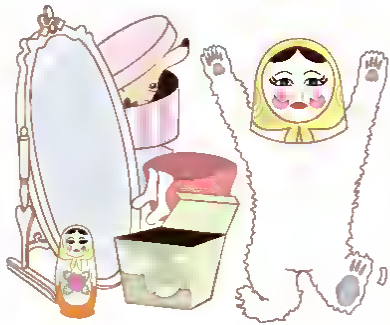




KU MA



MA TO RYOO SHI KA

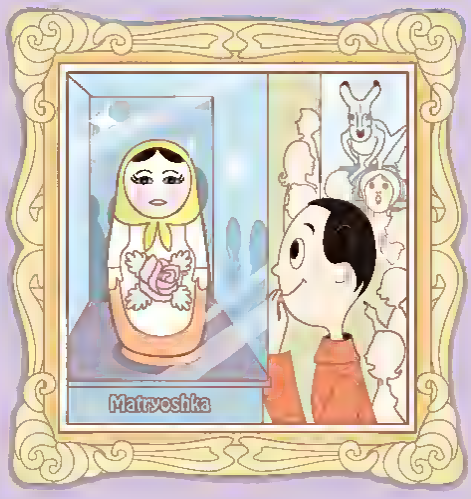


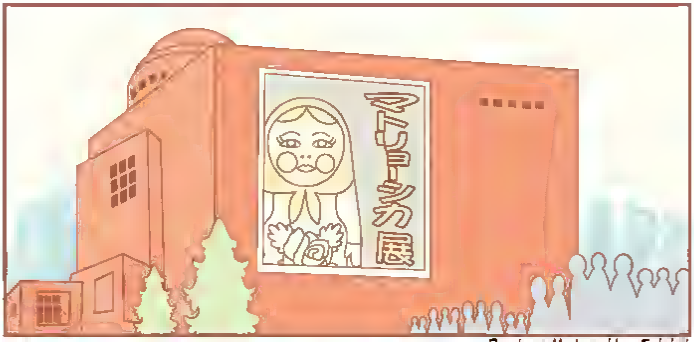
MATROSHKA

マトリョーシカ

MA TO RYO SHI KA

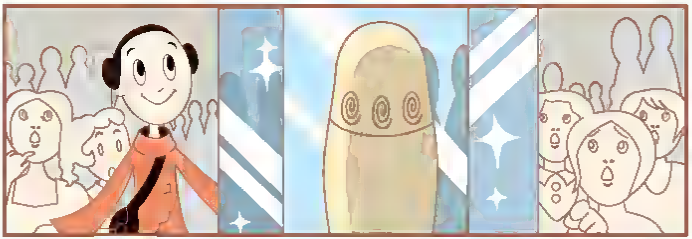
CHAPTER 4

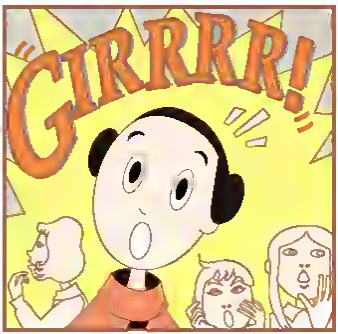


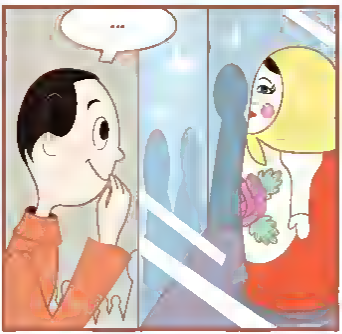


Poster: Matroshka Exhibit

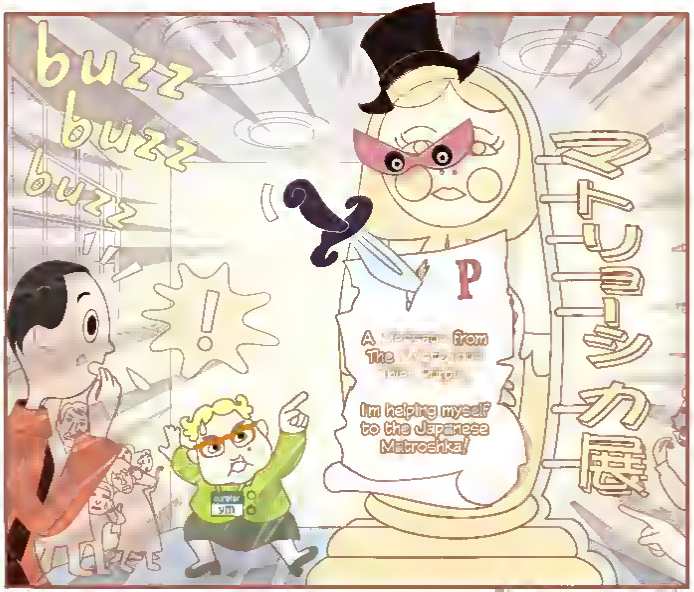
"THE MATROSHKA, FIRST RELEASED AT THE 1900 PARIS WORLD FAIR..."



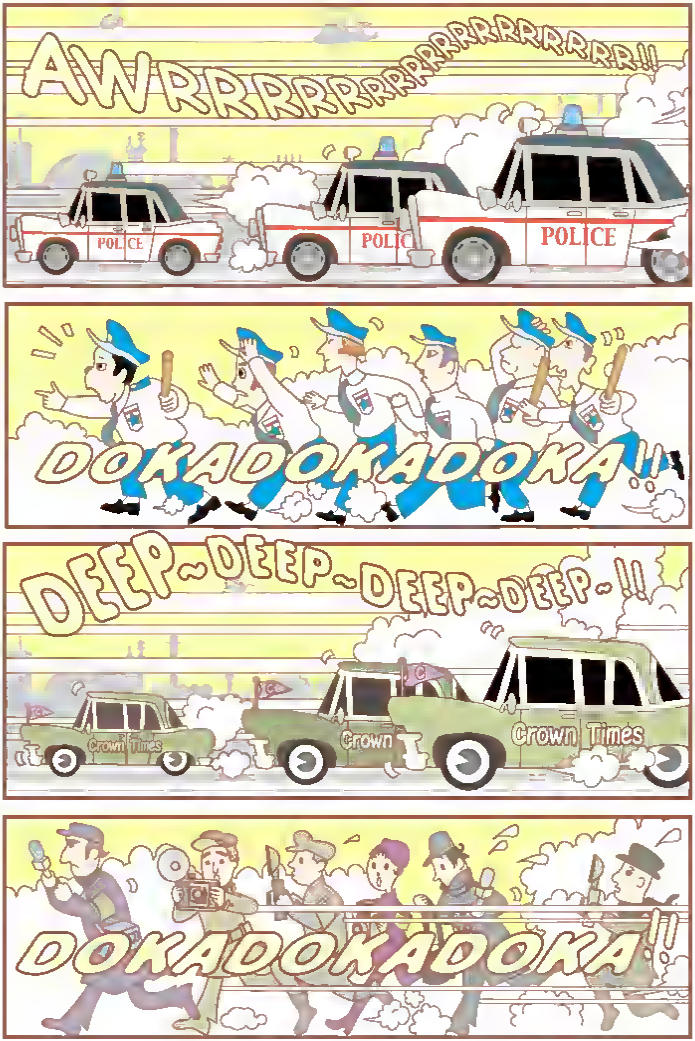




"AH! WHAT'S THAT?!"



Sign: Matroshka Exhibit


AWRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRR!!
POLICE
POLICE
POLICE
DOKADOKADOKA!!
DEEP~DEEP~DEEP~DEEP~!!
Crown Times
Crown
Crown Times
DOKADOKADOKA!!

マトリョーシカ展
P
A Message from the Mysterious Thief 'Purple'
I'm helping myself to the Japanese Matryoshka!

rap
!
rap

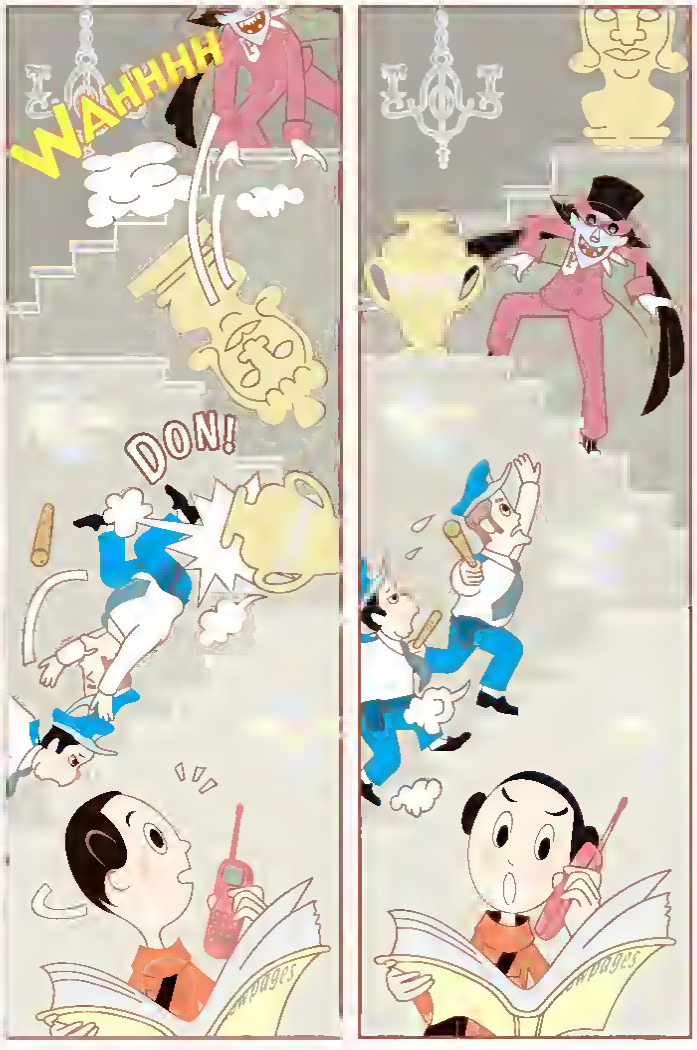
rap
rap

"DON'T MAKE A MOVE! THE THIEF IS HERE WITHIN THIS VERY EXHIBIT HALL!"

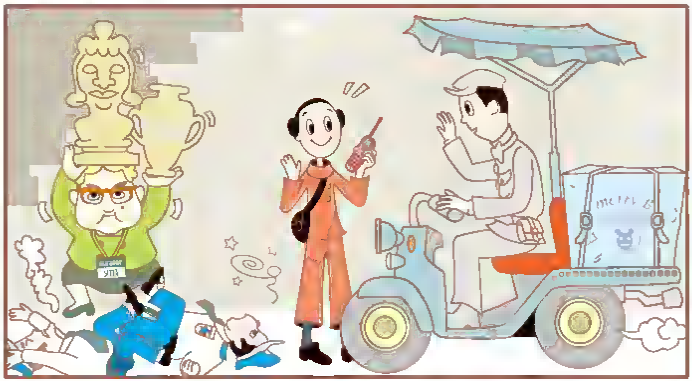
...
pop!
!?

"WHAT?! THERE ARE ... TWO INSPECTORS?!"
!
hisssss...
hisssss...
rippppp
WAHHHHHHHH

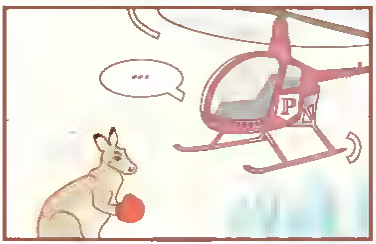
WAHHHHHHHH
"AH! THAT'S 'THE MYSTERIOUS THIEF PURPLE'!"

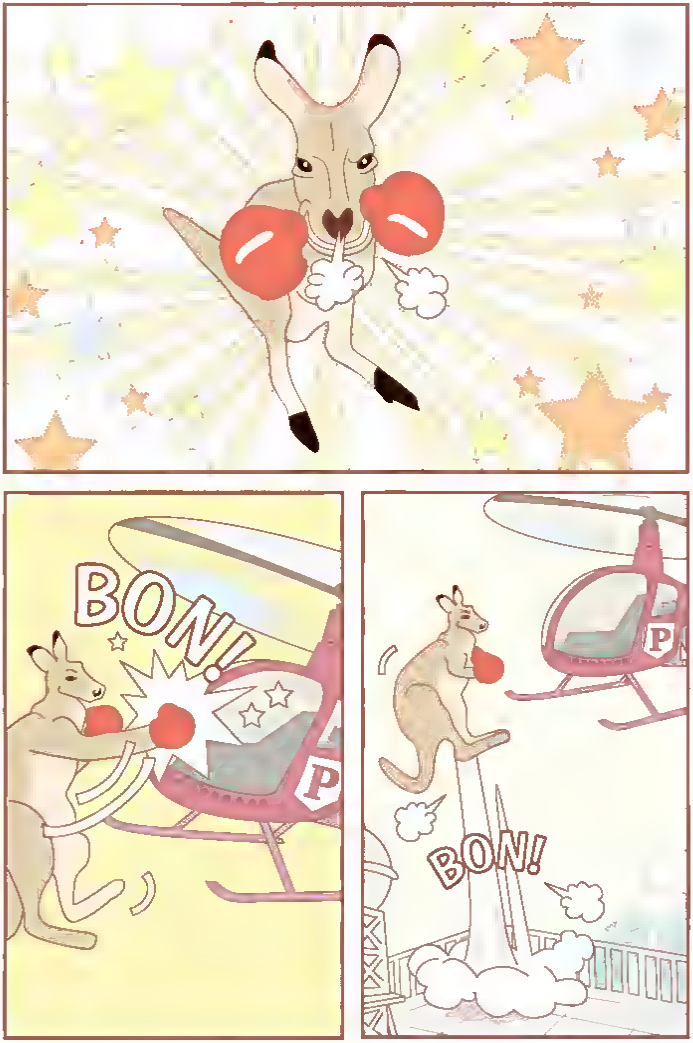

WAHHHH
DON!

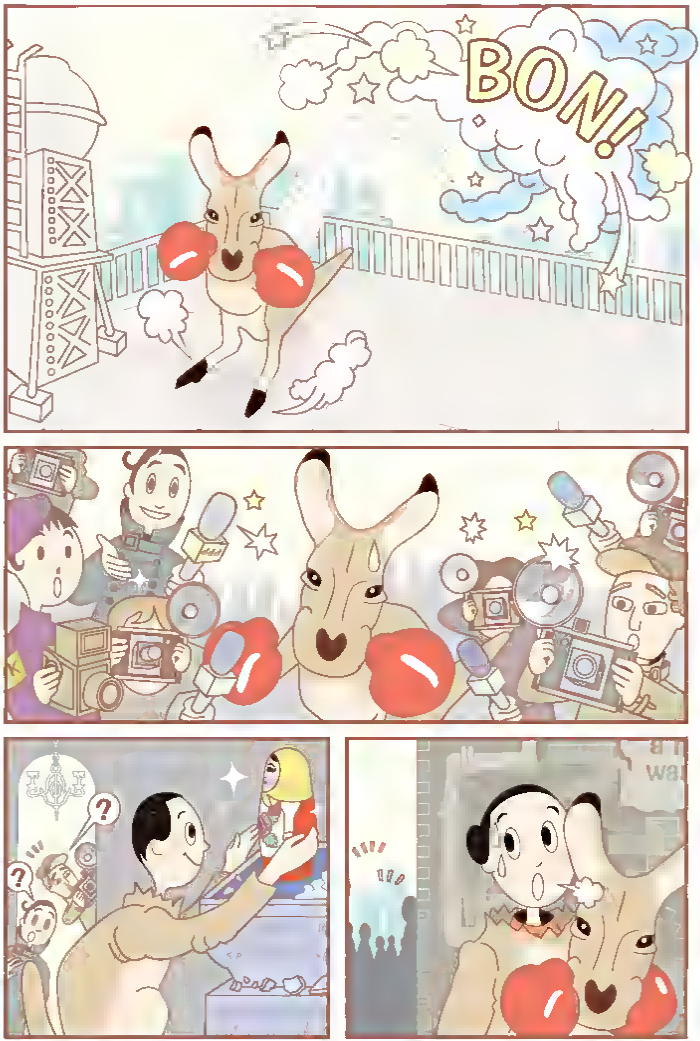
!!!!
tok!
curator
ym
???
tok!
screech!!!



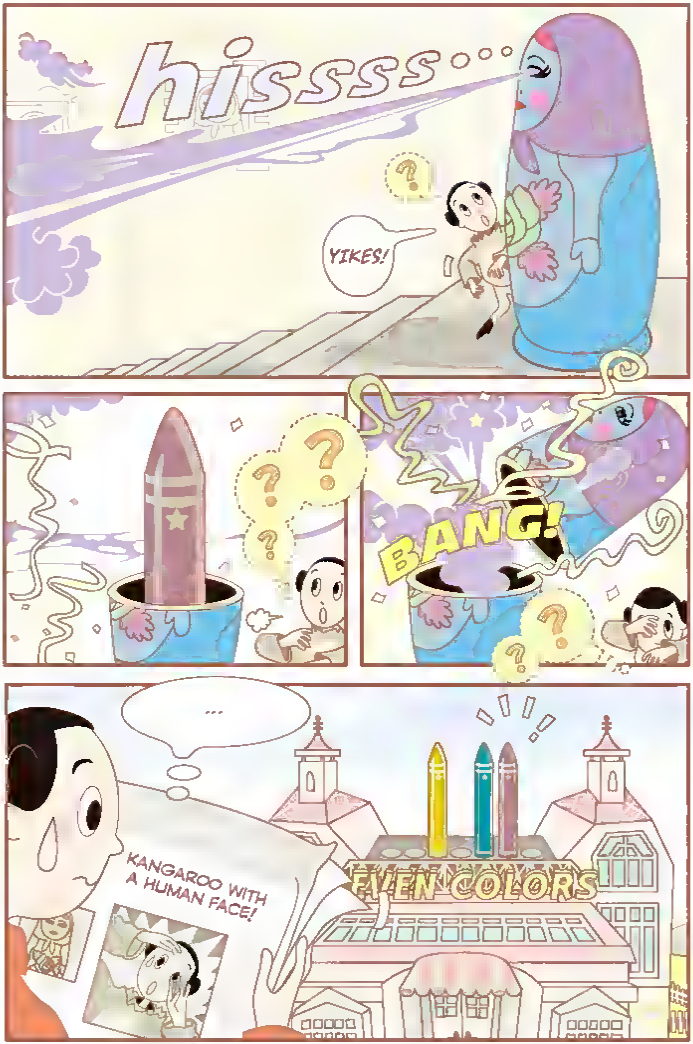
"HELLO, HELLO! YOUR TREASURED ITEM IS HERE!"

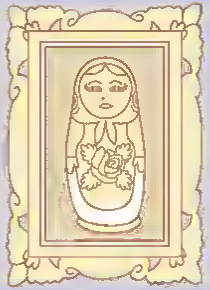



BON!
P
P
BON!


BON!
?
?

snap!!!!!
snap!
snap!
snap!
hop-hop
hop-hop
"AH! SHE'S RUNNING AWAY! WAIT!"
coff-coff!
hisssss
coff-coff!

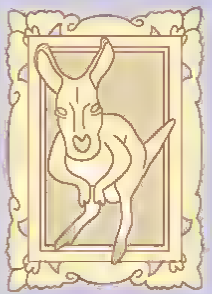

hisssss...
YIKES!
BANG!
...
KANGAROO WITH A HUMAN FACE!
EVEN COLORS



マトリョーシカ

MATROSHKA

MA TO RYOO SHI KA



カンガルー

KANGAROO

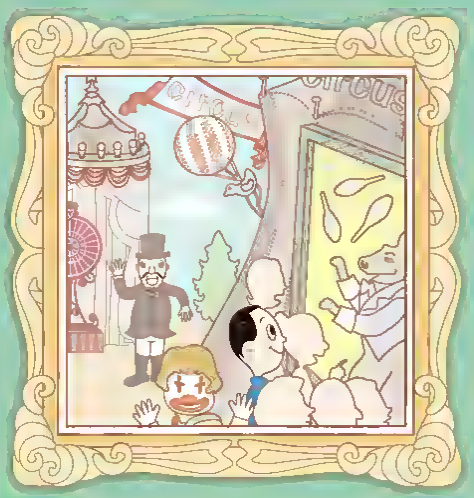
KA N GA RUU

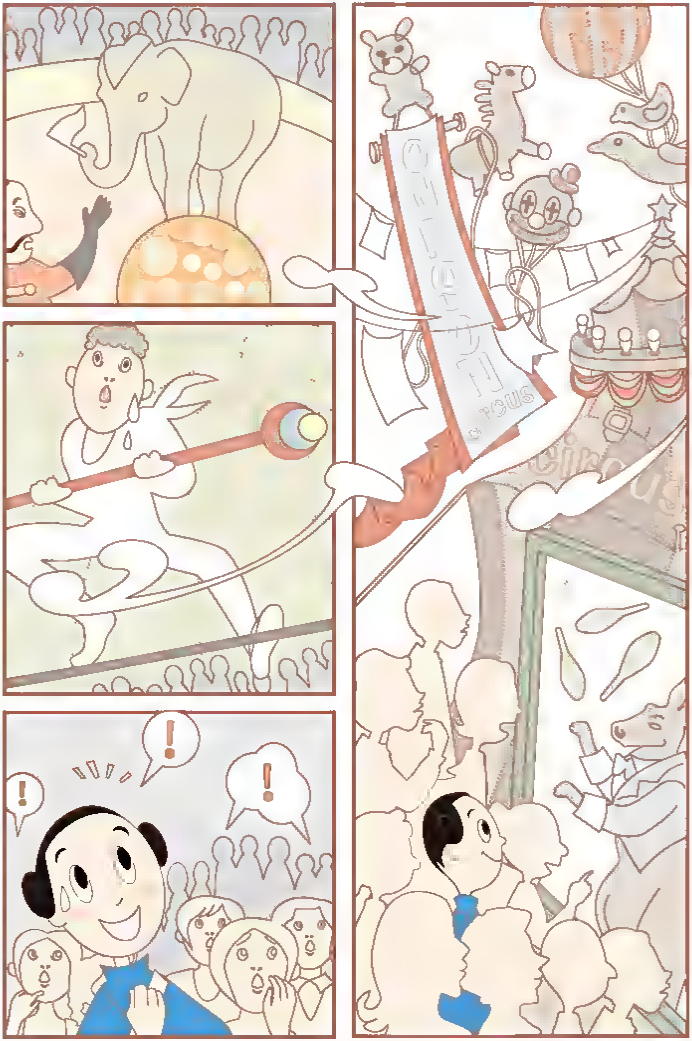
KANGAROO

カンガルー

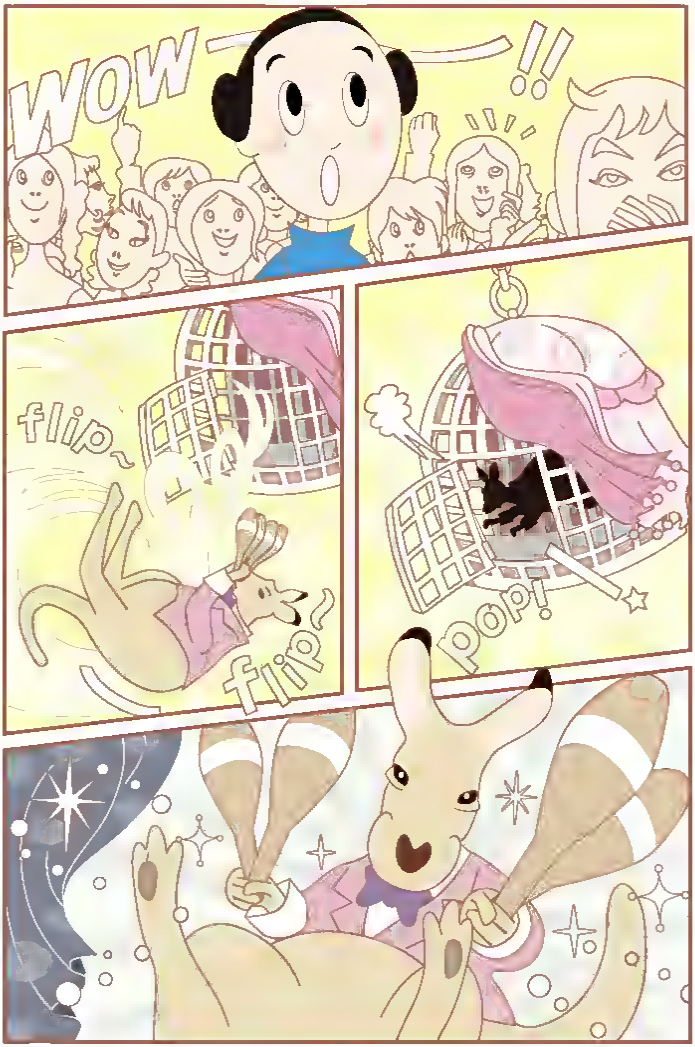
KA N GA RU

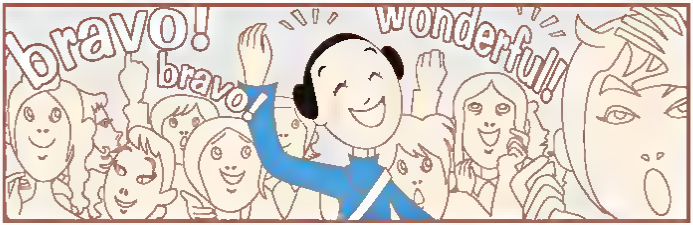
CHAPTER 5



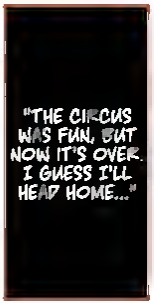


cue!
toot
toot
toot
bourson circus
rattle~
rattle
rattle


WOW
!!
flip~
flip~
POP!

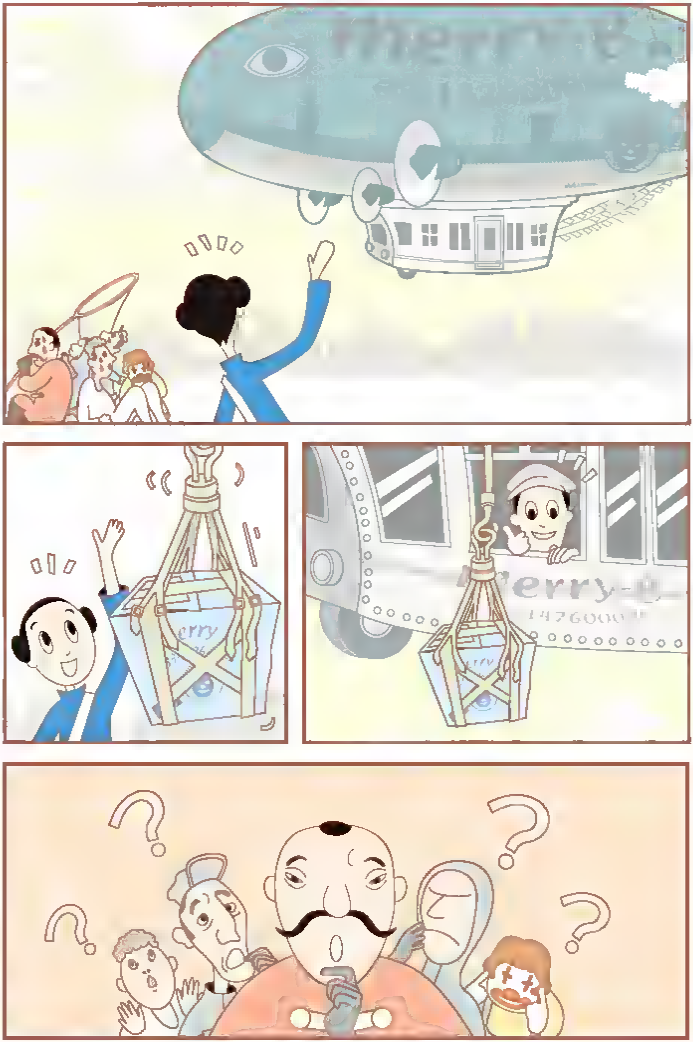

bravo!
bravo!
wonderful!

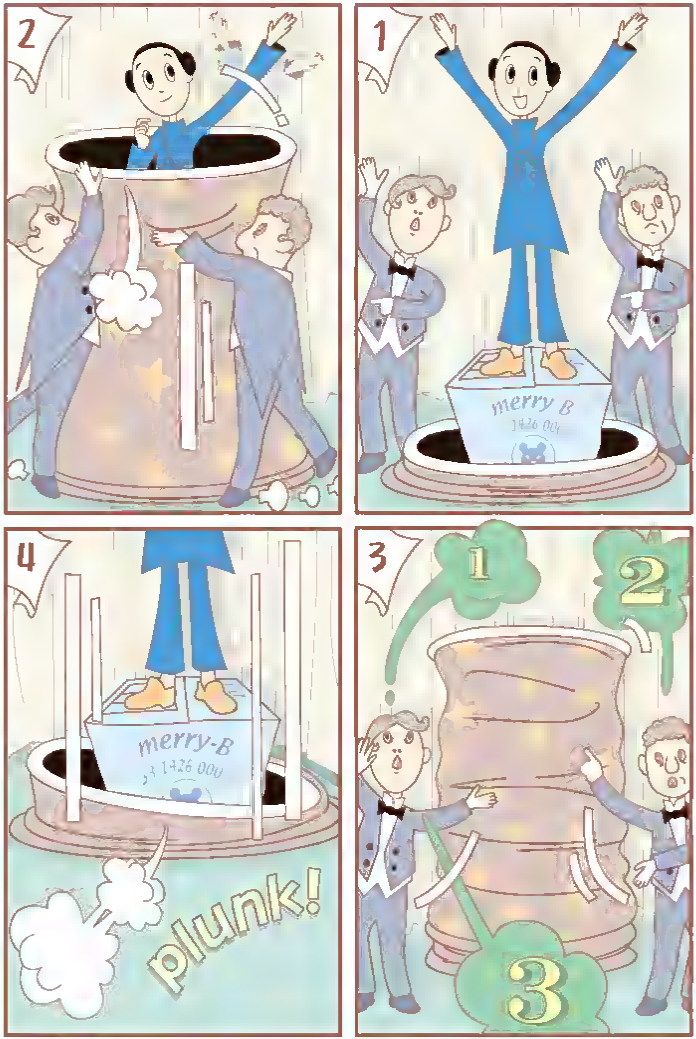
?!

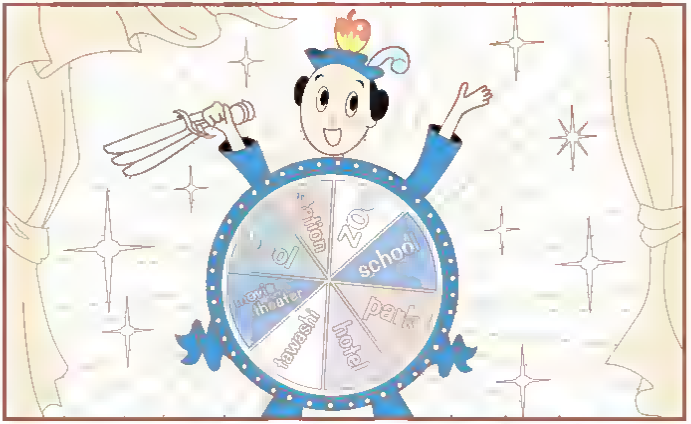

"THE CIRCUS WAS FUN, BUT NOW IT'S OVER. I GUESS I'LL HEAD HOME..."

"HEY! WAIT!"
CHAREEEEEEE
REEEEEEEEEEEE

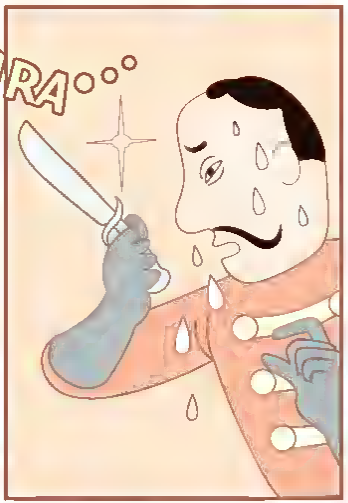
"WHERE COULD THAT KANGAROO HAVE GOTTEN TO...?"
!
...
YELLOW PAGES

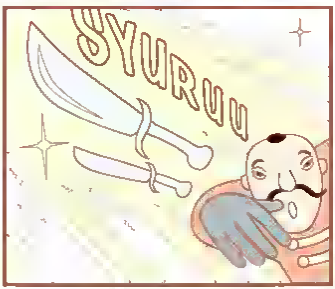



2
1
merry B
1426 000
4
merry-B
1426 000
plunk!
3
1
2
3

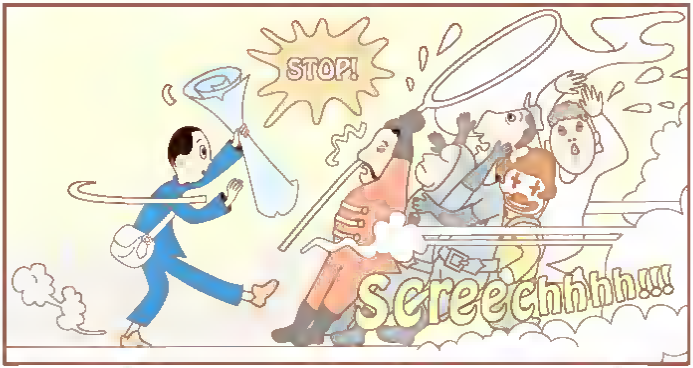


"NOW THEN! USE THIS ROULETTE TO DIVINE WHERE THE KANGAROO HAS GONE!"

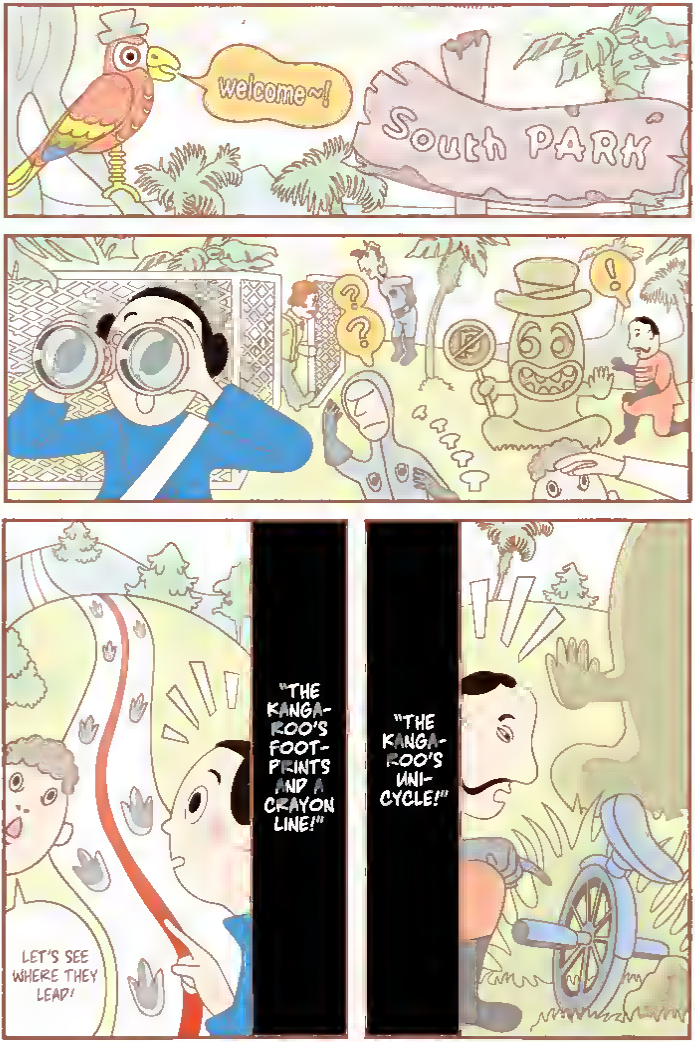




bravo!
bravo!
bravo!
pako!
Bako!!
zoo
school
park
"TO THE PARK!"
DOKADAKADAKA

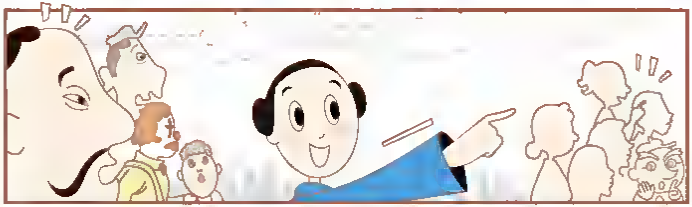


"WAIT WAIT WAIT! THERE ARE FOUR PARKS!"

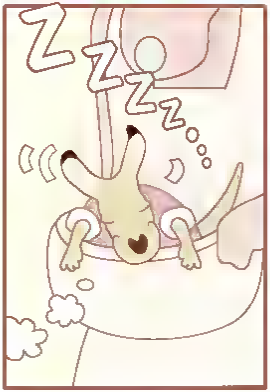

welcome~!
SOUTH PARK
?
?
!
LET'S SEE WHERE THEY LEAD!
"THE KANGAROO'S FOOTPRINTS AND A CRAYON LINE!"
"THE KANGAROO'S UNICYCLE!"

HOW LONG IS THIS LINE GOING TO CONTINUE?
hmm hmm
oink! oink!
IT'S HIGH!
GET ME DOWN!
WHAT'S THAT...? A PIG!
MY THROAT'S ALL RASPY!
E
i
BREAD, PLEASE!
WAIT, YOU TRAIN!
LET'S GO!
EAST PARK
THE KANGAROO'S FOOTPRINTS GO INTO THE EAST PARK!

THE FOOT-PRINTS GO THROUGH NORTH PARK!
NORTH PARK
I'M FALLING!
bling!
IS HE IN HERE?
COME OUT!
peep
LET'S TAKE A BREAK
...
KANGAROO! EVERYONE IS SEARCHING FOR YOU!
5:28
THERE'S ONLY ONE PLACE LEFT!
HEAD TO WEST PARK!



"LOOK! HE ENDED UP THERE!"



カンガルー

KANGAROO

KA N GA RU

ルーレット

ROULETTE

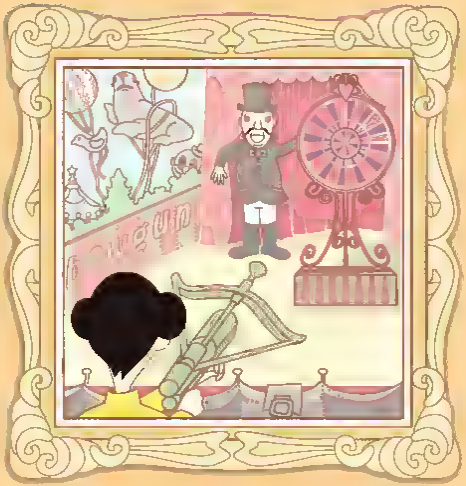
RUU RE TTO

ROULETTE

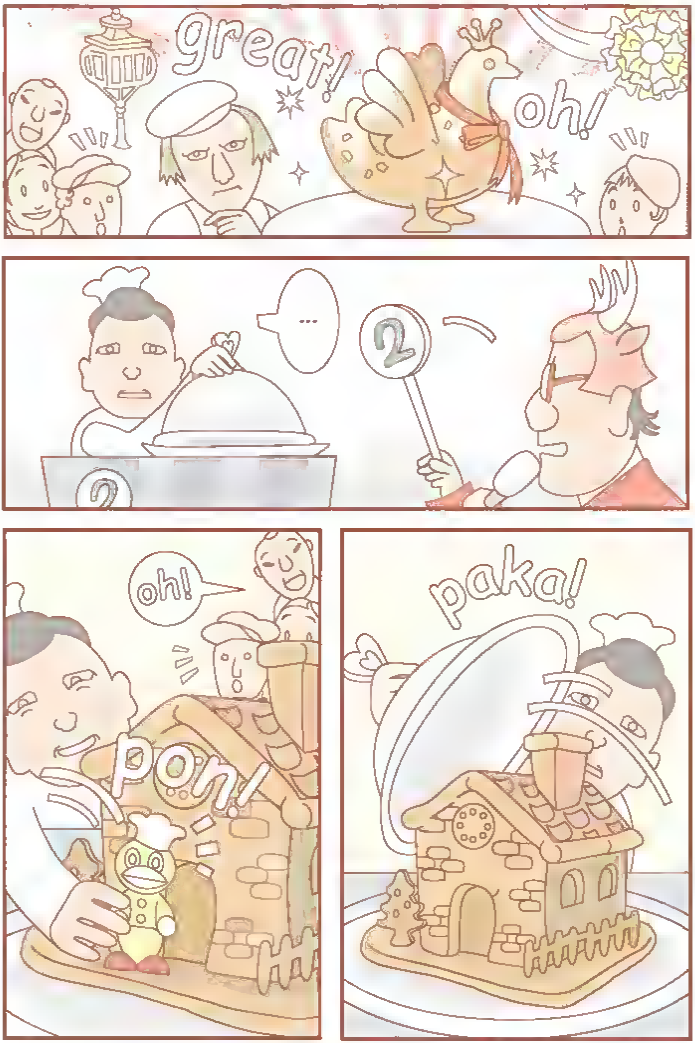
ルーレット

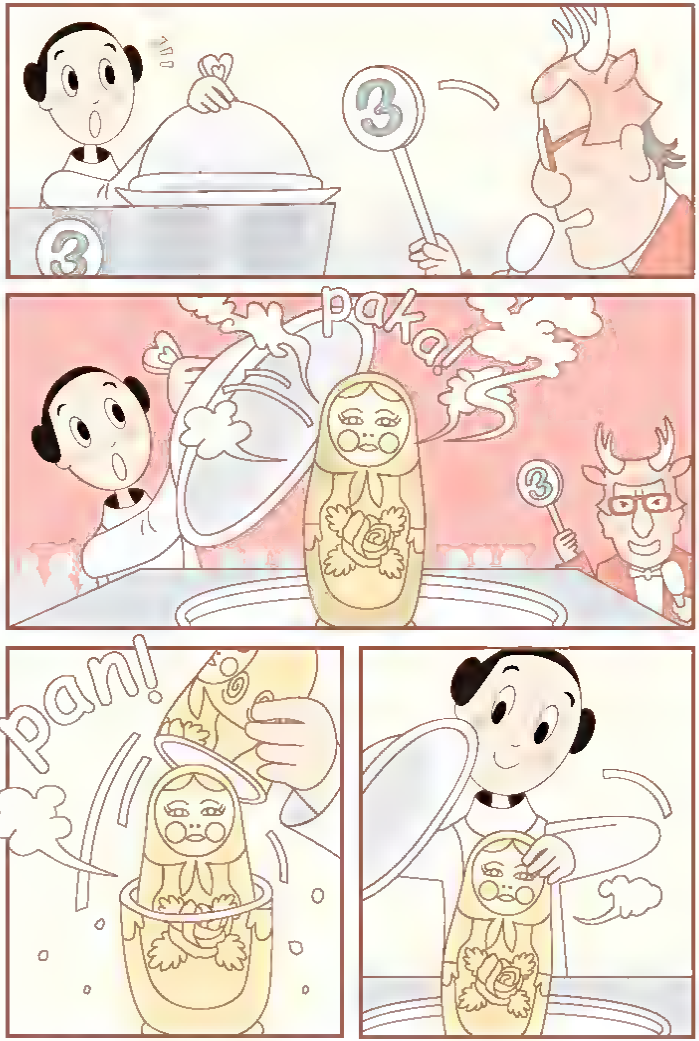
RU RE T TO

CHAPTER
6

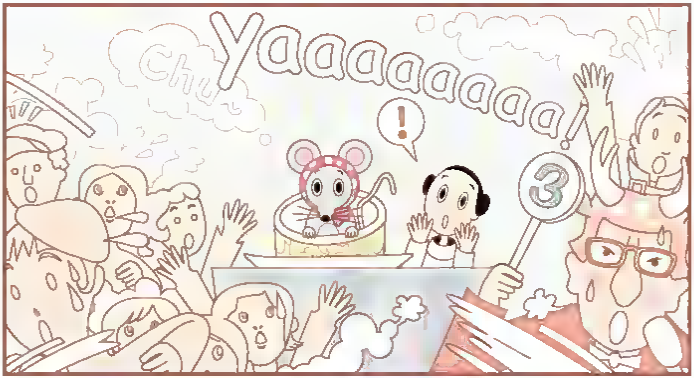


"THE HARVEST FESTIVAL BREADMAKING CONTEST!"

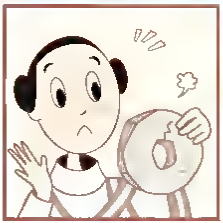

great!
oh!
...
2
oh!
pon!
paka!

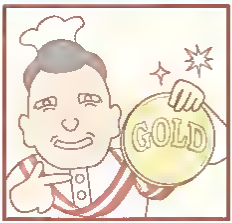

3
3
pak!
3
pan!

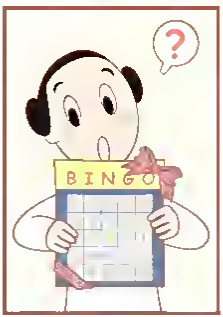
pan!
ton!
pan!
pan!
pan!
pan!
chu-
pan!

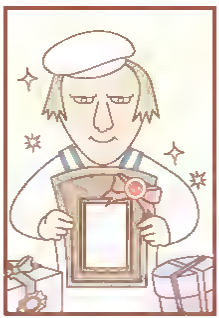


"THE WINNERS OF THE BREAD CONTEST HAVE BEEN DECIDED!"





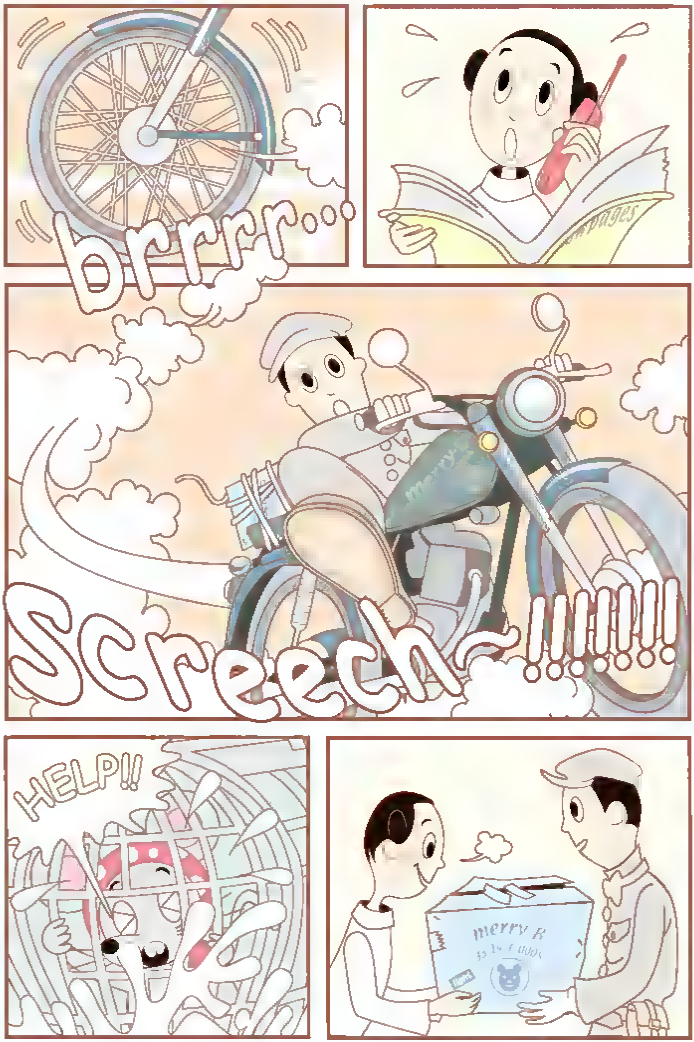




B I N G O
BINGO
pita!
kara
kara
kara
kara
kara
kara
pita!
BINGO

BINGO
BINGO!
BINGO
!
BINGO!!
...

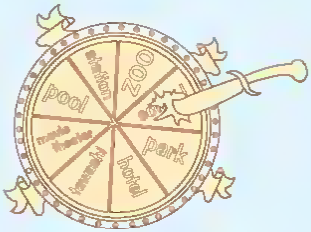
paka!
"MY BINGO PRIZE..."
?!
basya!
HELP!!
basya!
basya!
basya!
!!
HELP!!
chu-!
HELP!!
HELP!!


brrrr...
Screech~!!!!!!
HELP!!
merry R

boooooom!
!!
sploosh!

Cyu~!!!
paco
poon!
pon!
Cyu~!!!
!!

...
whirrrrr
!!



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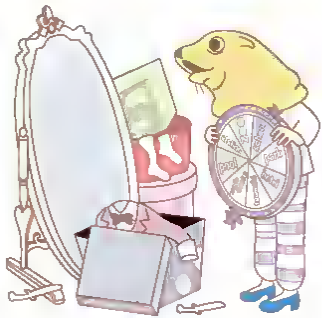

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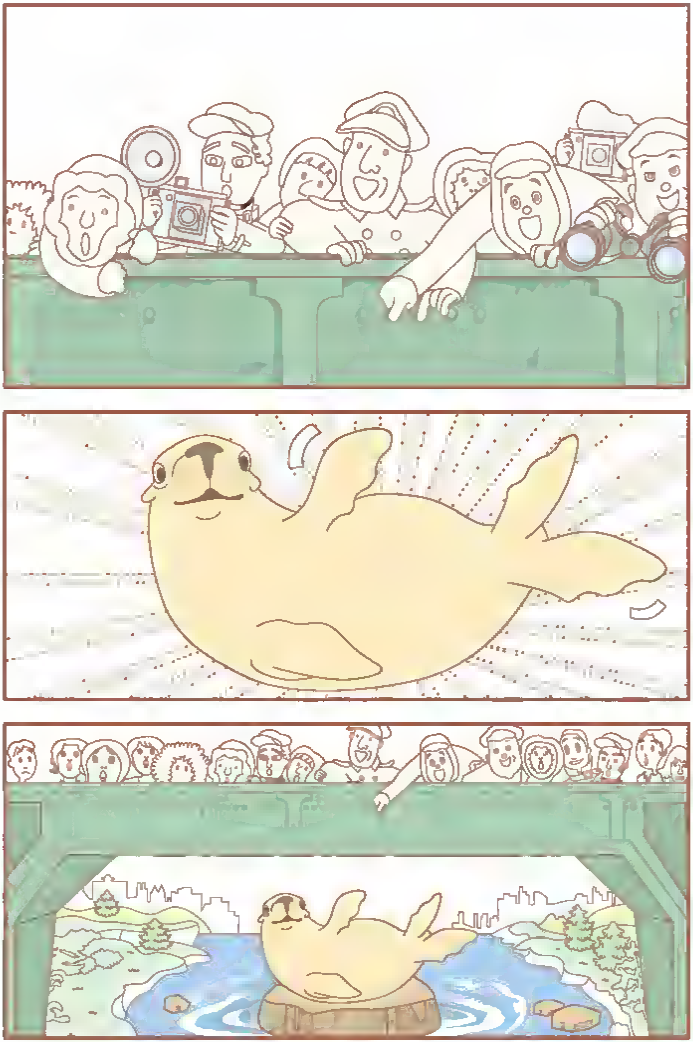
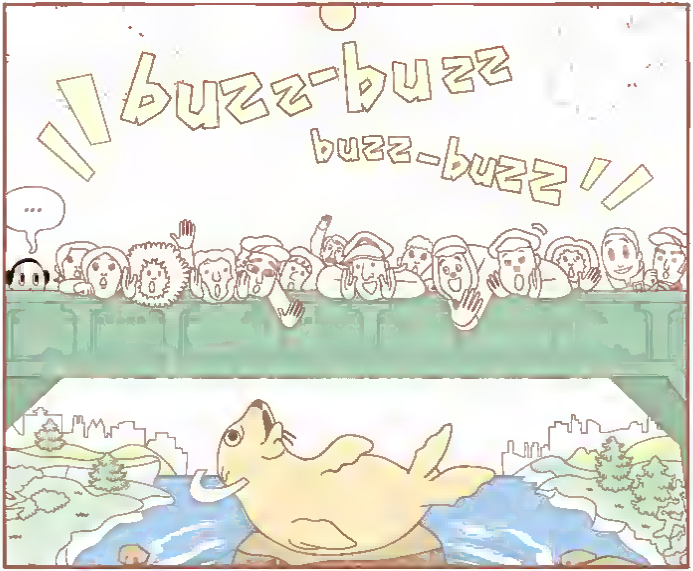
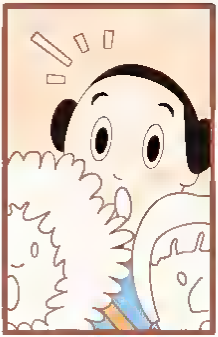
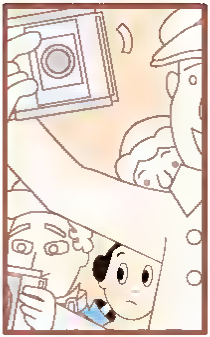
CHAPTER 7

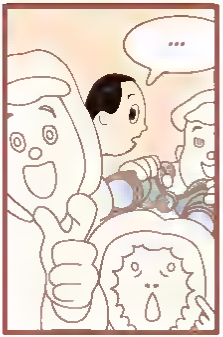


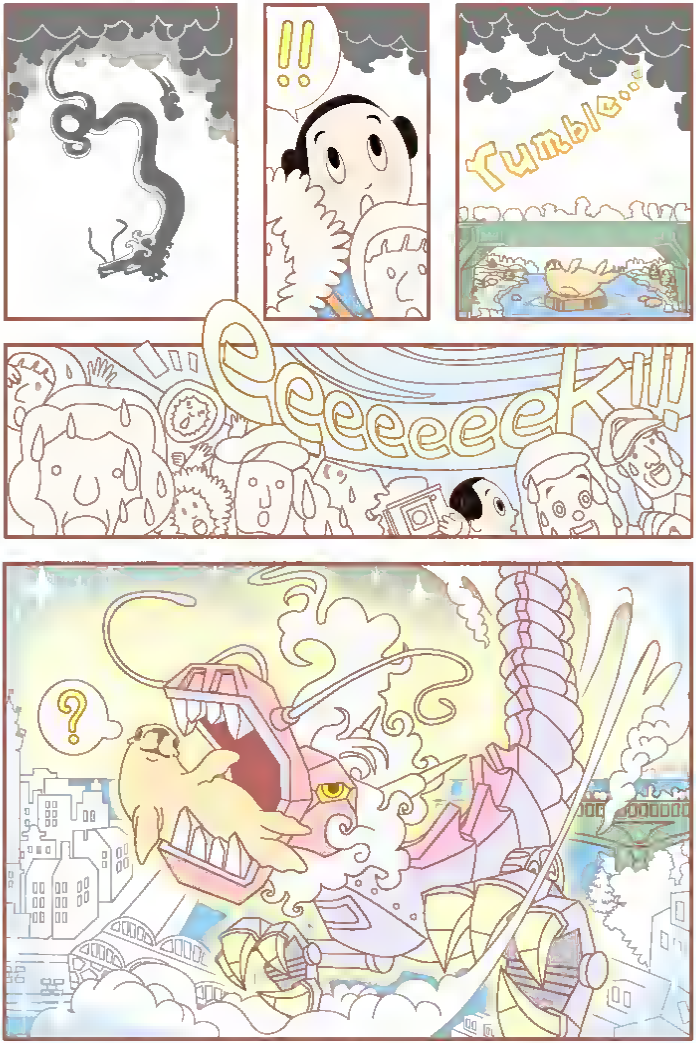


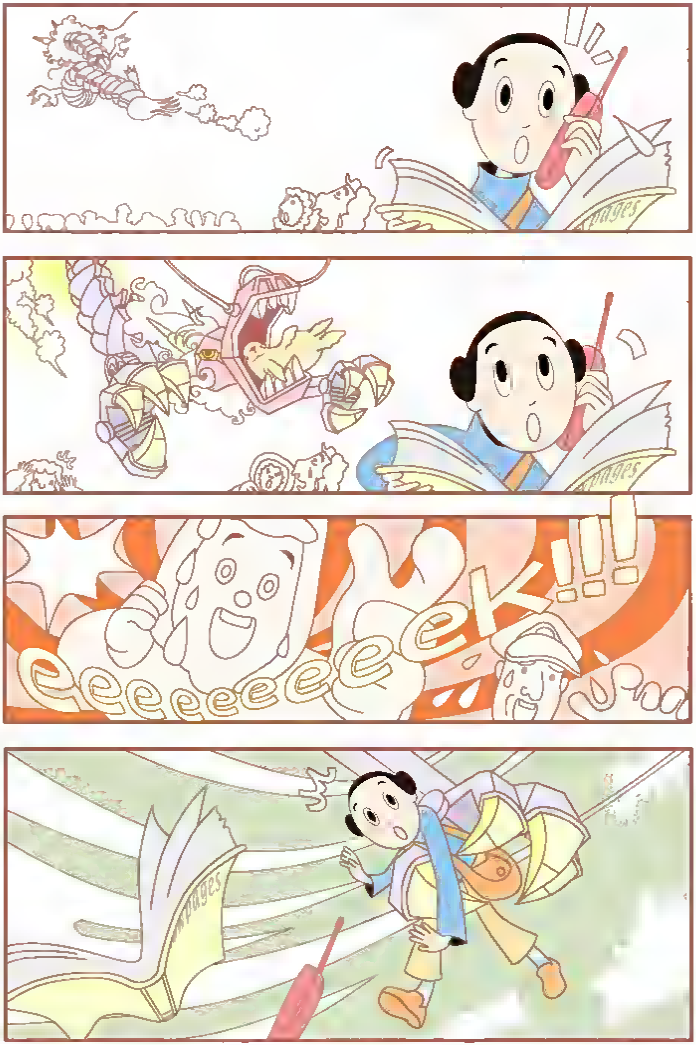
"OH LITTLE SEAAA LIOOONNN!!!!"

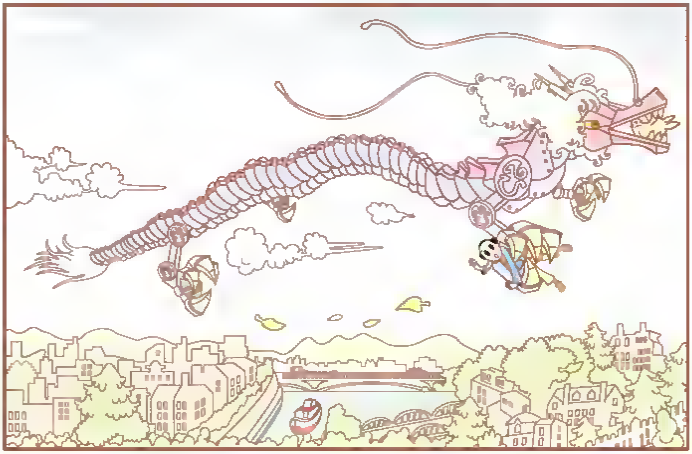


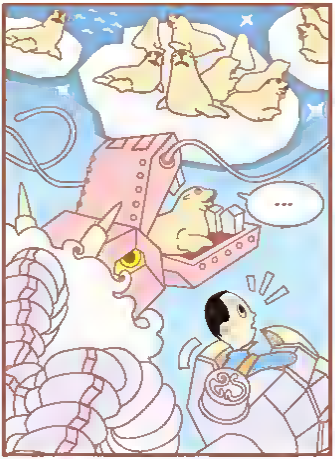





!!
rumble...
Eeeeeeek!!!
?

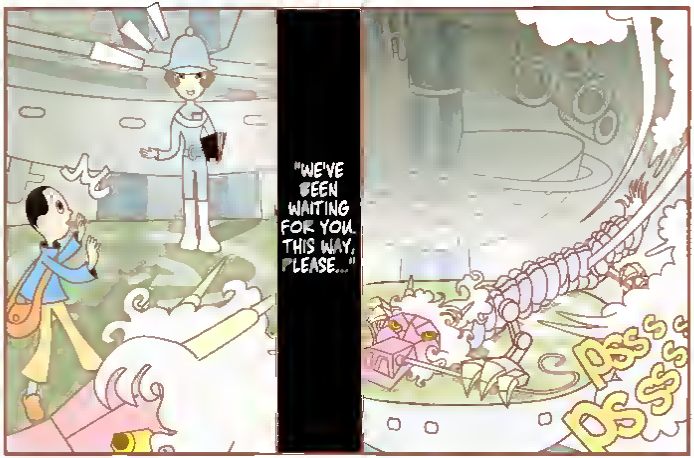

eeeeeeeeek!!!

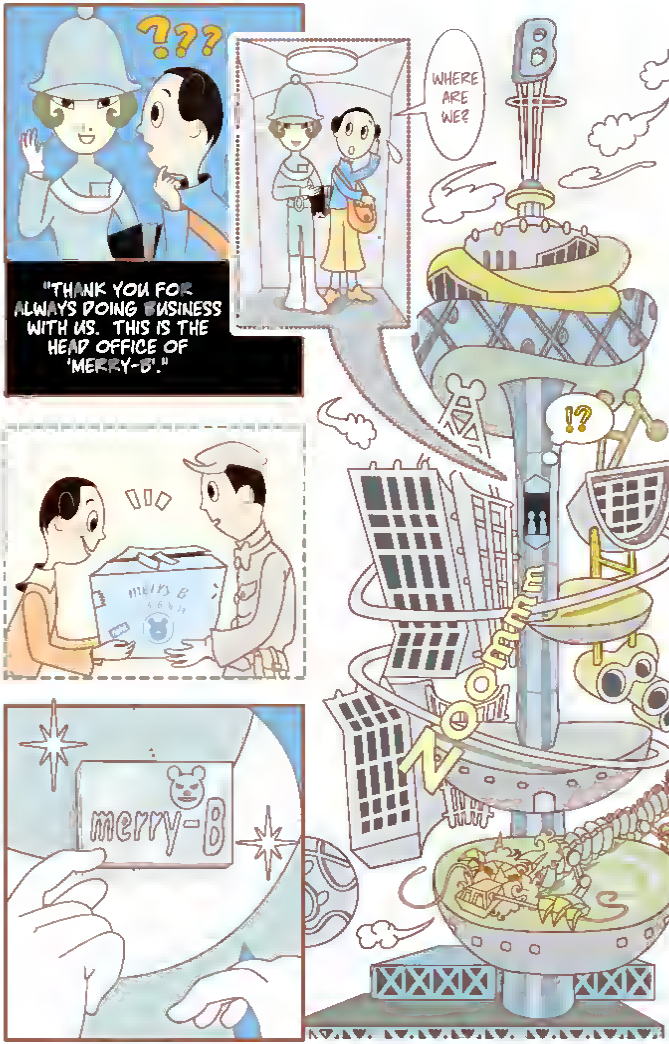


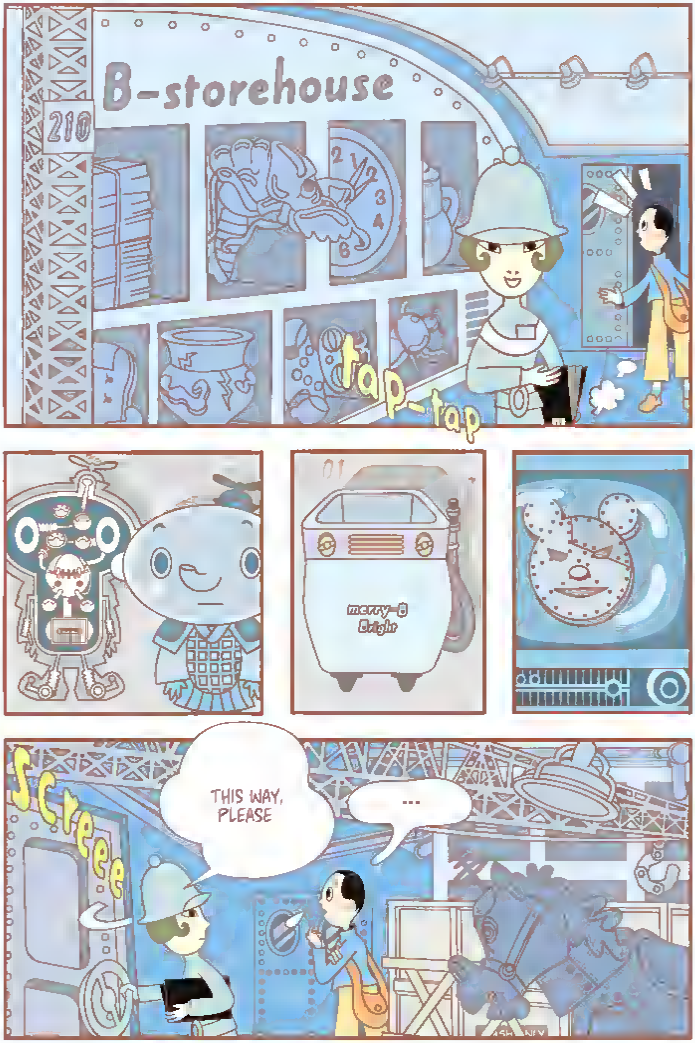


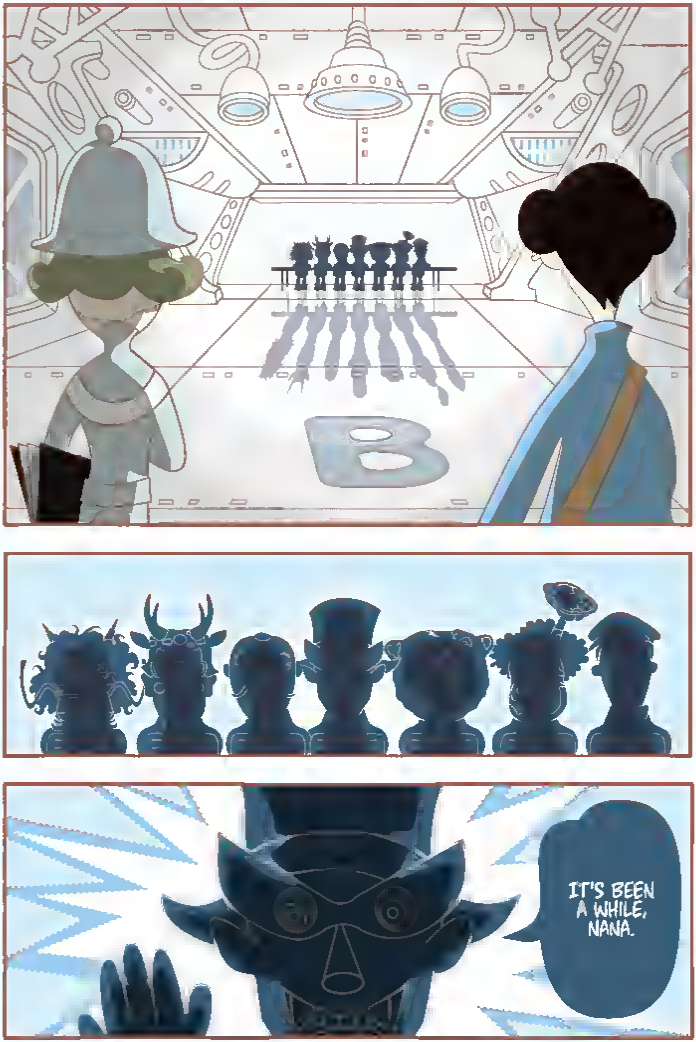
"YOU WERE JUST TAKING THE SEA LION HOME, WEREN'T YOU!"

"DRAGON! WHERE ARE YOU GOING!"

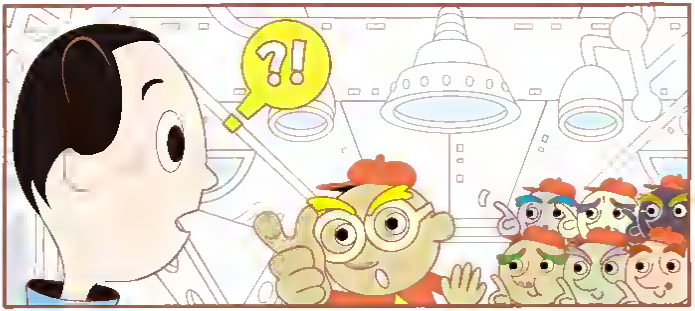



???
"THANK YOU FOR ALWAYS DOING BUSINESS WITH US. THIS IS THE HEAD OFFICE OF 'MERRY-B'."
WHERE ARE WE?
!?
merry-B

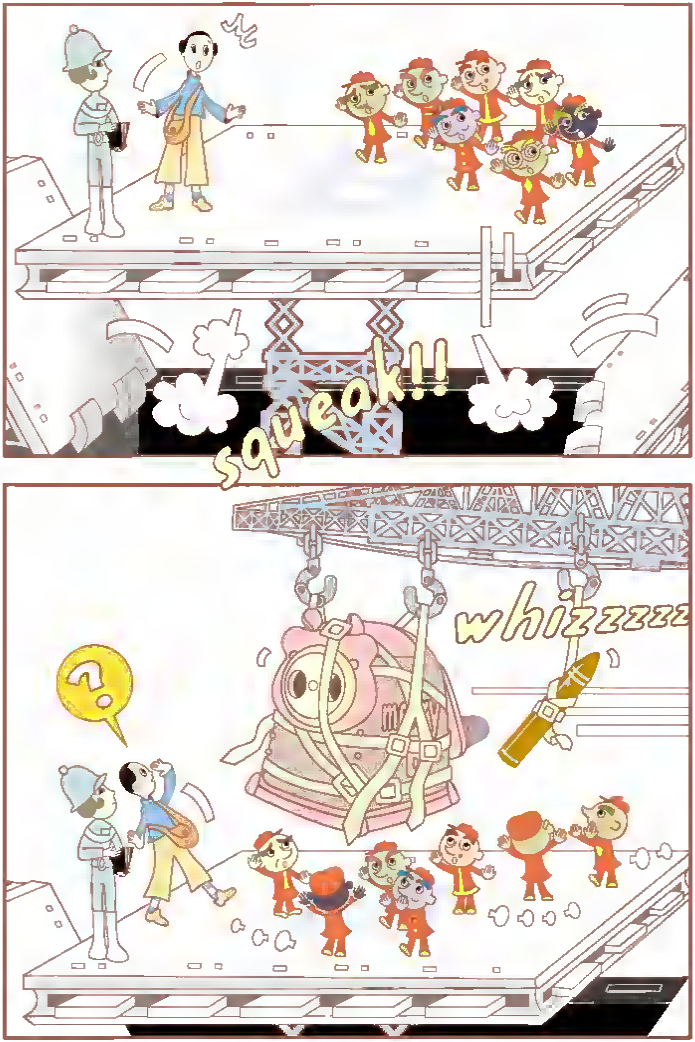

B-storehouse
210
tap-tap
merry-8
bright
THIS WAY, PLEASE
...
screee

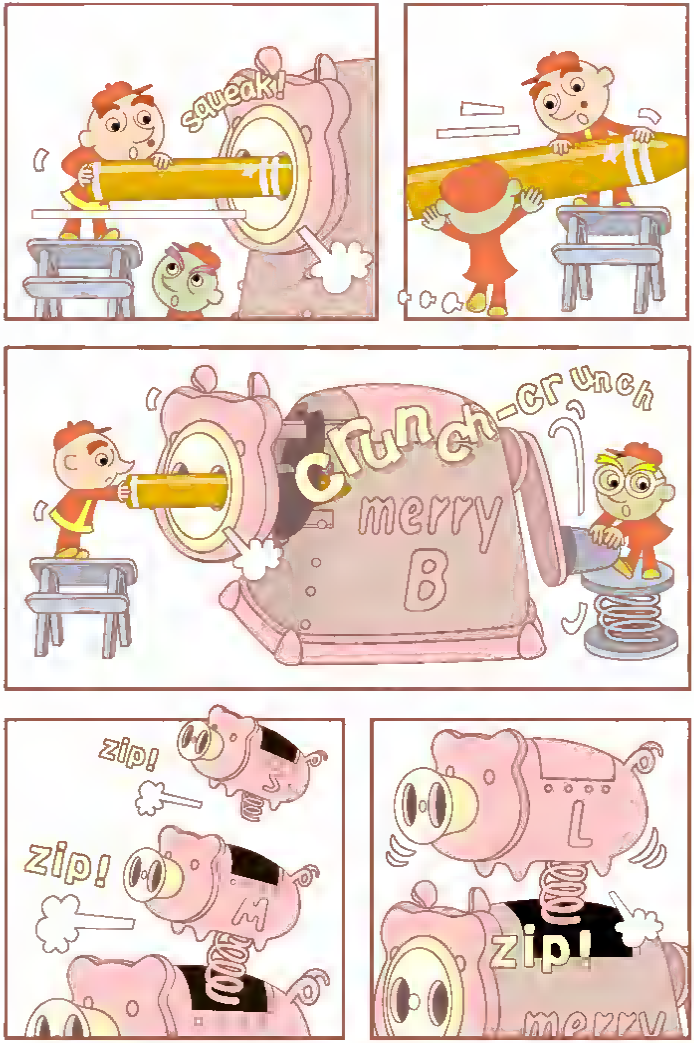

B
IT'S BEEN A WHILE, NANA.

*They mean the crayons



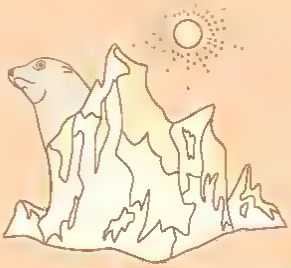
"NANA, LEND US YOUR CRAYONS!"


squeak!!
whizzzzz
?


squeak!
crunch-crunch
merry
B
zip!
zip!
zip!
merry

Switch on!
PSSSSSS
AH! MONKICHI!
S
M
L
merry B
...
switch

screech!
Psssssss
merry
B



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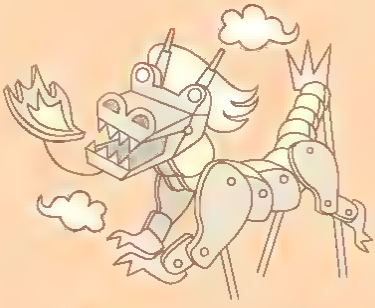
SEA LION



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DRAGON

AFTERWORD

HELLO EVERYONE! I'M CHIKUHAMA KAZUKO! THANK YOU VERY MUCH FOR READING ALL THE WAY TO THE END!

WHEN I WAS A CHILD, I SPENT A LOT OF FREE TIME PLAYING SHIRITORI WITH MY FRIENDS. IT WAS OFTEN QUITE EASY TO FIGURE SOMETHING OUT BASED ON WHAT THE NEXT PERSON OVER SAID. THE ONLY WORDS THAT GAVE US A LOT OF TROUBLE WERE THE ONES THAT ENDED IN "RU," BUT WE STILL MANAGED TO THINK UP SOME OF THOSE. FOR EXAMPLE, "RUBY," [RUBII] OR—FROM ONE PRECOCIOUS GIRL—"LAPIS LAZULI" [RURI IRO]. SOMEONE MIGHT SHOUT OUT "RULE!" [RUURU] QUITE SERIOUSLY, BUT THEN THE NEXT PERSON WOULD BE EVEN MORE HARD PUT TO COME UP WITH A "RU" WORD. ANYONE WHO SAID "RUN RUN!" OR SOMETHING EQUALLY MEANINGLESS TENDED TO MAKE US ALL LAUGH AND BE POPULAR. IT WAS FUN TO TRY AND THINK UP WORDS THAT STARTED WITH "N" AND KEEP THE GAME GOING.

THIS MANGA, "SHIRITORI," STARTED AS AN INDEPENDENT WORK. IT'S SOMETHING I JUST DECIDED I WANTED TO DRAW WITHOUT RECEIVING A REQUEST FROM ANYONE. EVEN FROM THE START, I THOUGHT IT WOULD BE A CHALLENGE TO GET DIALOGUE ACROSS WITH SILENT MOVIE STYLE CAPTIONS, AND INDEED I FELT QUITE NERVOUS ABOUT IT AS I DREW. I ENDED UP WITH A LOT OF QUESTION MARKS IN MY HEAD AS I THOUGHT OUT "WHAT? WHY? AND THEN...?" BUT AT TIMES LIKE THAT, I FELT "THIS IS SHIRITORI, SO CONNECTING THE STORY IS THE MOST IMPORTANT!" AND EVEN WHEN I COMPLETELY COULDN'T COME UP WITH ANOTHER WORD TO CONTINUE THE PATTERN, I DECIDED "WELL, INSTEAD OF CONNECTING THE WORDS, LET'S CONNECT THE IMAGES!" AND KEPT GOING. AT TIMES, I DECIDED THAT A STYLE LIKE THIS MUST BE A MANGA CLASSIC, BUT THEN I THOUGHT "NO, IT'S NOT A CLASSIC! THIS IS A MANGA RENAISSANCE!" AND, WITH MY HOPES RISING FURTHER, BEGAN TO DRAW FURIOUSLY. CERTAINLY, THIS WAS A SOLITARY SHIRITORI. THAT YOU ALL WOULD SIT DOWN AND READ THIS "SHIRITORI" OF MINE IS LIKE A DREAM ... NO, IT'S LIKE SOMETHING OUT OF A MANGA.

FOR THIS RELEASE OF "SHIRITORI," WHICH RECEIVED AN AWARD IN THE 2006 JAPANESE CULTURAL ARTS MEDIA FESTIVAL, I EVEN MADE SOME CHANGES. I ADDED THE FIRST CHAPTER, "STORE" AND THE SEVENTH CHAPTER "SEA LION." AND, IN THE THIRD CHAPTER, "BEAR," I ADDED IN A NEW SCENE. AND I THOUGHT UP NEW WAYS FOR THE CRAYONS TO RETURN ONE BY ONE. BECAUSE OF THIS, I WAS ABLE TO ADD IN NOT ONLY MONKICHI AND NANA'S WORKPLACE, BUT THE SEVEN UNCLES AND HOW THEY FIT IN. THIS MAKES ME VERY HAPPY. SPEAKING OF WHICH, IF YOU READ THE WORK TWO OR THREE TIMES, YOU MIGHT EVEN BE ABLE TO FIND EACH OF THE SEVEN UNCLES PLAYING HIDE AND SEEK. I ADDED IN SEVERAL NEW SCENES TO MAKE THE STORY A BIT LONGER, AND INCREASE THE NUMBER OF PAGES. SO IT WAS THAT MY SOLO GAME OF SHIRITORI BECAME EVERYBODY'S "SHIRITORI."

THANK YOU ALL FOR LETTING ME DRAW THIS RAINBOW INTO YOUR EVERYDAY LIFE! NANA AND THE SEVEN UNCLES THANK YOU AS WELL, FROM WITHIN THE MANGA!

電子版
SHIRITORI

著者／筑濱カズコ

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SHIRITORI

BY CHIKUHAMA KAZUKO

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